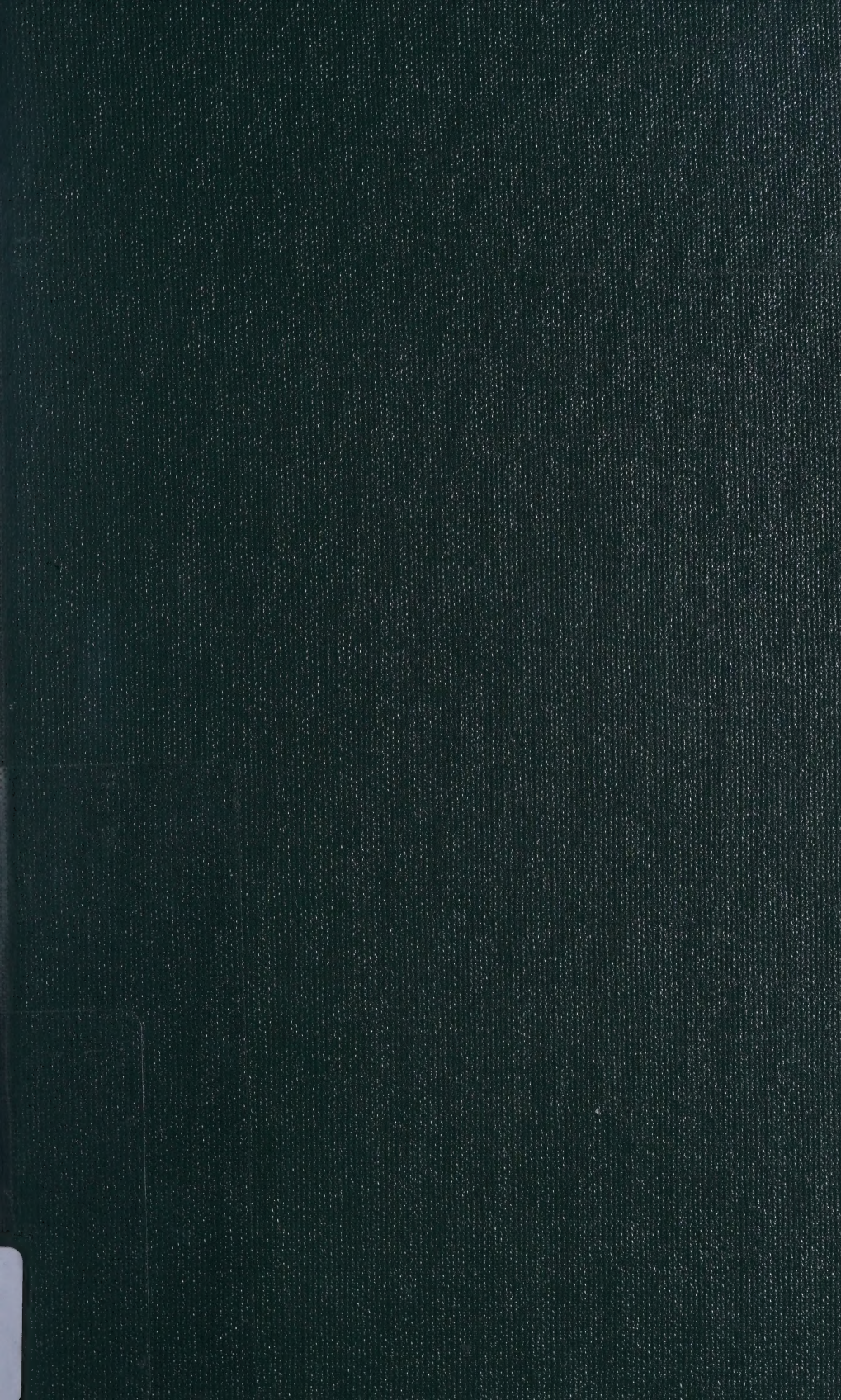




DEKALB
BUTLER
DOUBLE
DIAMOND
JUBILEE
BII

10/04

ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY
603 S. Jackson St.
Auburn, IN 46706

Double Diamond Jubilee
150 Years***1841-1991
August 7-11, 1991
Celebrate the City

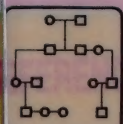


INDIANA



977.277
OU

OWN
ISTORY
NDIANA



Genealogy

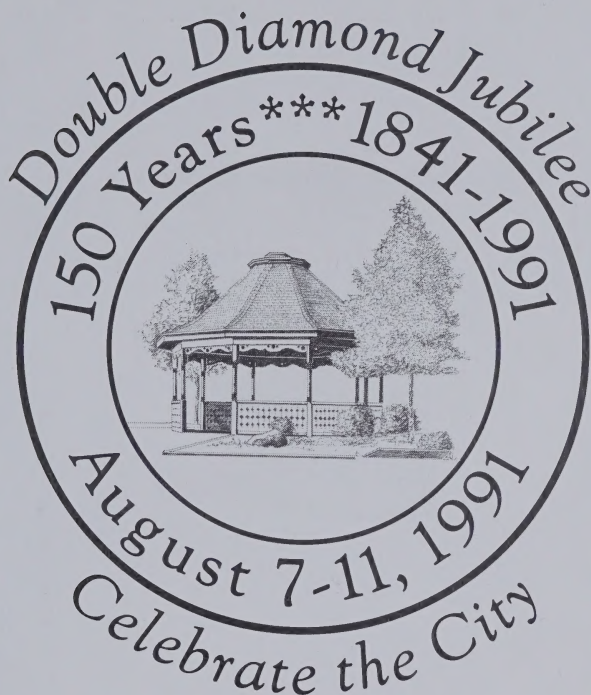
Butler, Indiana

DONATED
BY
LUCY FUNK

© DEMCO, INC.—Archive Safe

R 977.21
D6U
Ind Coll

ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY
603 S. Jackson
Auburn, IN 46706



Double Diamond Jubilee
Celebrate the City
Butler, Indiana
1841 - 1991

Compiled and Written
By:

John Martin Smith, Editor
Jeff Jones—Chairman
Carolyn Ladd
Sheryl Prentice
Paul Mutzfeld
Jerry L. Markle

— thank you —
the success of this event would not be possible without
the determination and dedication of many people.

Sesquicentennial Board Members

Jerry L. Markle
Larry Dove
Lyndia Suntken
Patty Fry
Mike Hartman
Eric Johnson
Sondra Phillips
Butch Coburn
Fred Davis
Jeff Jones

Special thanks to the efforts of our
City Employees
Police Department
Fire Department

Published by
City of Butler
Jerry L. Markle, Mayor
© 1991

Table of Contents

Letter of Mayor Jerry L. Markle	4
Letter of Governor Evan Bayh	5
Letter of Vice President Dan Quayle	6
Letter of President George Bush	7
Introduction - John Martin Smith, DeKalb County Historian	8
1. Butler: 150 years - An Historical Overview	9
2. How Did Butler Get Its Name?	18
3. Railroad History of Butler	20
4. Up and Down the Streets of Butler (Map Included)	31
5. City Government and Services	39
6. A Stroll Through Butler City Parks	45
7. Butler Day Care Center Looks to the Future	48
8. Reading Plus! Butler Carnegie Library	49
9. Reading, Writing and Arithmetic - Butler Schools	51
10. Hoops, Mats, Diamonds and Gridirons	55
11. Manufacturing	59
12. Working Together	64
13. A Community of Faith	70
14. The Story of Susie the Deer	76
15. Every Week - A Brief History of Butler Newspapers	78
16. Butler's Top News Stories Since 1966	79
Red Letter Dates	81
Patron Advertisements	83



City of Butler

201 South Broadway
Butler, Indiana 46721

Clerk Treasurer
(219) 868-5200
Department of
Water & Sanitation
(219) 868-5881

August 7, 1991

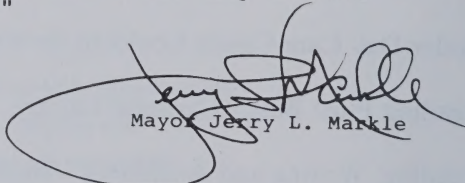
Dear Friends,

Today, as we celebrate this sesquicentennial event of our city, let us take a moment to reflect on those events of the past. Let us also remember those individuals who gave of their time and efforts and became involved and set the course of the city.

To those we say thank you.

More importantly, we celebrate our future. We celebrate those individuals who will give of their time and efforts to mold the events to come.

I welcome each and every one to our city and this "Double Diamond Jubilee."



Mayor Jerry L. Markle



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204 - 2797

EVAN BAYH
GOVERNOR

August 7, 1991

Greetings!

It is my pleasure as governor to congratulate you upon the celebration of your city's sesquicentennial anniversary. What a rich heritage you have to look back upon!

For 150 years families have lived and worked within the formal perimeters of the City of Butler. Your city has witnessed its children grow and succeed and have children of their own. You have produced farmers and business executives and government leaders.

Some of you have lived here since birth; others have adopted Butler as your "home." Regardless of how long you have lived in Butler, I know that each of you takes pride in your community and the good people who reside there.

I wish your city the best for a happy and fruitful future!

Sincerely,

Evan Bayh

EB/ps



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

July 8, 1991

The Citizens of Butler
Butler, Indiana

Dear Friends:

As a fellow Hoosier, it gives me great pleasure to send my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather for the 150th anniversary of your town.

While a century and a half of growth and success is an inspiring accomplishment, I am sure that the best years for Butler lie in the future. On this very special occasion, you may all justly rejoice in the rich traditions and achievements of the fine citizens of your town.

Indeed, your neighborly spirit echoes that of the settlers who made this region their home one hundred and fifty years ago -- and serves as a tribute to the men and women who made this nation great.

Marilyn joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable and rewarding celebration.

Sincerely,

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 10, 1991

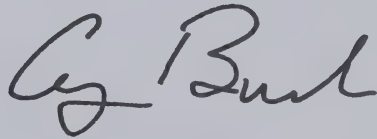
To the Citizens of Butler, Indiana:

You have my warmest congratulations as you celebrate your 150th anniversary.

As you well know, Butler is more than a collection of buildings, it is more than a place on the map. From its earliest days, it has nurtured the lives and accomplishments of countless individuals -- individuals united through the years by a common love for the place they call home. That deep sense of community, of responsibility toward one's neighbor and the common good, resonates through all cities and towns across America. It is one of our nation's greatest strengths.

This milestone gives you a splendid opportunity to reaffirm that community spirit, taking just pride in the past and rededicating yourselves to the promise of a bright future.

Barbara and I send you best wishes for a joyous celebration. God bless you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized "G".



Welcome to Butler! Signs along U.S. 6 at the east and west ends of the city greet visitors.

Introduction

Is Butler just another small town located on the old New York Central Railroad and U.S. 6, or is it something special? If you grew up here or live here or used to live here, it is a very special town. It is your hometown.

Over the 150 years of its existence, Butler has changed with the times. Some families have come and gone. Some families have stayed. Some buildings and houses have been built and razed. Others still stand.

Butler is a place. Butler is home. Butler is roots.

The town celebrated its Centennial in 1941 and its Gold and Diamond Anniversary in 1966. Books of local history were published for both occasions.

In 1990 Mayor Jerry Markle gathered several former and present citizens and asked them to produce a book for Butler's sesquicentennial. The task was accepted and a committee was formed. Topics were assigned to each member. Drafts were submitted for editing. The result is this small volume which hopefully will bring the history of Butler up to date. We have tried to fill in the gaps of prior volumes.

John Martin Smith
DeKalb County Historian

Butler: 150 Years— An Historical Overview

By Carolyn Ladd

It was in the late 1830s when pioneers first began to establish homesteads on the land that was to become Butler. When the township of Wilmington was organized in 1837, families by the names of Gunsenhouse, Kester, Blair, Tomlison, and Handy began to turn the wilderness into a community of friends and neighbors.

Among these early settlers was Charles Norris, who built a log cabin in the area and took ownership of the eight-acre Colgrave tract where he operated a general store. He later divided this original tract of land into lots and sold them so others could go into business.

As the township of Wilmington grew, the town became known as Norristown after Charles Norris. It was when the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad was completed about 1856, that Norristown began to experience tremendous growth. Log cabins were replaced with frame buildings. The original postal service called Oak Hill station was moved to Norristown. The name of the town was Jarvis from 1859 to 1868. The first church building, the Methodist Episcopal Church, was erected in the late 1850s.

Over the next twenty years, numerous businesses were established in the



This photograph shows activity from a street festival in 1894. The picture shows South Broadway, looking north from Oak Street.

vicinity of Broadway and Main Streets. There were John Shull's Tavern, David Blaker's Blacksmith Shop, Henry Lindorfer's Brickyard, and the Otis Brothers' Furniture Store.

By 1866, Norristown had been incorporated as a town and was served by trustees: Elihu Ocker, W. P. Carpenter, J. A. Campbell.

The first newspaper went to press and called itself the "Butler Herald." Doctors, such as J. Sheldon Lewis and Joseph D. Kennestrick (both born in Butler) and Frank Fanning, were practicing medicine, and a three-story brick schoolhouse was built to serve the children's educational needs. Butler was now a recognized town with an operating government. It was soon to experience another surge of expansion.

Around 1880, Butler became the division point for the Wabash Railroad when the railroad was extended

to Detroit. This extension connected Butler with many other vital parts of the country. Businesses continued to prosper. There were Knisely Brothers' Dry Goods, Clothing, and Bankers, the Mutzfeld Harness Shop, S. G. Stone Drug Store, W. H. Oberlin Pool and Billiards, and the L. J. Diehl Jewelry.

Because the horse and buggy was the main source of transportation at this time, many of the businesses were feed and grain stores and harness and blacksmith shops. A. J. Mason went into the lumber business to provide materials for many of the new homes. Mason himself built a large home which still stands at the northwest corner of Depot and Eastern Streets.

Butler was a young and growing community with entertainment to be enjoyed by all ages. There were opera houses operated by Adolph May and Mr. Thompson. Public meetings and dances were held at Ballinger Hall (located where the Butler Carnegie Library now stands). Street fairs, livestock exhibits, and carnival attractions added to the fun.

Horse racing became a popular source of entertainment. A racetrack was located east of the Butler Company and L. J. Diehl maintained stables on East Main Street. One of Diehl's horses, Colonel Strathmore, became famous. Many horse owners kept their horses and rigs at W. S. Maxwell's Feed, Seed, and Grain Store.

Streets were mostly dirt roads in the late 1880s, and all the buggy traffic "kicked up" a lot of dust. To keep the dust from irritating their customers, merchants would pay to have a sprinkling wagon drive through town to wet down the streets with water. One of these sprinkling wagons was operated by Henry Zeigler, whom every-

LANE

REAL ESTATE

FAMILY

The year 1955, PAUL T. LANE (deceased 1915-1971) with wife ZELDA and 4 children (Carolyn, James, David, and Richard) were residing on a farm in Troy Twp. 7 miles north of Butler.

The outgoing Paul T. Lane loved working and especially talking to people, which inspired him to venture into the Real Estate Business. In 1958 Paul and Zelda with three healthy boys to act as human bulldozers, decided to become a Home Builder to enlarge the services of the Real Estate Sales. The first home built was south of Ft. Wayne. At the time of the death of Paul in 1971 LANE HOMES were being built across northeast Indiana.

With the training provided by Paul and a lot of Hard Knocks, the existing LANE FAMILY, now scattered across the U.S. in Real Estate and Building Related Fields are:

JAMES M. LANE, Dallas Texas, International Commercial Real Estate
DAVID L. LANE, Butler Indiana, Realtor/Builder LANE DEVELOPMENT INC.
RICHARD E LANE San Diego, California Design Engineering

JEFF A. LANE, St. Joe, Indiana Custom Finishing, Interior Trims
AMY LANE-MOORE, Auburn, Indiana Realtor

WENDY LANE-GINDER, Auburn, Indiana Teacher (Buying and Selling Homes)

BRYAN D. LANE, Ft. Myers, Florida Treasurer, LANE DEVELOPMENT INC.

one knew as "Hen."

A large crowd turned out when the "drummer" came to town. The "drummer" was a man who came to Butler to present a medicine show. He would perform magic tricks from the back of his horse drawn wagon, and then would sell snake oils and spring tonics guaranteed to cure whatever ailed you.

By the 1890s, it was decided to build a town hall. A town hall was erected in 1892 in the same location as the current city hall. It stood for seventy years. Town trustees at the time were George Geddes, Thomas Rudd, and Frank Stewart.

Passenger trains arrived and departed frequently from Butler. To accommodate the travelers, there were many hotels and boarding houses. There were the Hotel Aldrich, the Wilcox Boarding House (located at the present site of the American Legion), and the Clifton House which stood across from the Butler Company.

Everyone knew when a train was approaching town as one could hear the steam whistle of the locomotive. The drive wheels of these engines were as tall as the engineers themselves, and they were fueled by huge furnaces that burned coal and wood.

Fire control up to this time in

Butler had been basically a system of good solid ladders and plenty of buckets. As more housing additions were developed (Lingenfelter's, Mason's, Hubble's, and Sawyer's additions), the Butler Hose Company was founded. C. B. Mason served as the first fire chief of this group of men who responded to fires with a horse drawn reel of hoses.

Streets were lighted with kerosene lamps which gave the town of Butler a soft glow at night. Miles Wilsey was one of the lamplighters who used a long pole to light the lamps at sundown and then extinguish them at sunrise.

By the close of the nineteenth century, Butler had experienced continuous growth. Modern electric, sewage, water, and road systems were needed to serve the population of over two thousand citizens. To meet these new demands, Butler became a city in 1903 and elected its first mayor, Sam G. Stone.

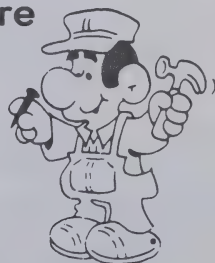
The twentieth century saw the new-fangled motor car replace the trusty old horse and buggy. This change forced many established businesses to produce or sell a different line of products. Mutzfeld's Harness Shop went into the hardware business and the Butler Company began to produce windmills instead of buggies.

Towne Hardware, Inc.

DOWNTOWN BUTLER, INDIANA

—owner Steve Johnson

**Your Full Serve
Local Hardware
Store**



A variety of services were now available to the community. These services included the reliable visit of the milkman. Homemakers relied on the milkman to deliver bottles of milk right to their doors. John Kiplinger was a milkman who lived on a farm called "Bird Flowerdale." Kiplinger would sell flowers from his farm as he traveled along his milk delivery route.

Modern times brought new demands to the city of Butler. In 1910, under the administration of W. J. Mondhank, many streets were paved. City mail delivery was started with Luther Bryan and Charles Oberlin working as mail carriers. It was also during this time that the Butler Carnegie Library was built after a library board including Mrs. Brunsetter, L. H. Higley, and Dr. Schumaker received a grant from the Carnegie Foundation.

In the early 1900s, the school was



Products Jobber

Sebert Oil Co.

P. O. Box 35 - Butler, IN. 46721

DWIGHT SEBERT

MIKE SEBERT

RICK EVERHART

Phone 868-2191

Enterprise 2191

Area 219

an integral part of the community. Mrs. Lida Stage taught music for many years and served as the leader for an all girl's band. The band played at special events and held concerts in the old bandstand at the northwest corner of Broadway and Oak Streets. Members of the all girl's band included Bessie Oberlin, Lucille Hamman, and Bernice Griffin. Mrs. Stage also led the Butler boy's band which was known as "a big band of little fellows." Among the members of the Butler boy's band were Harold Seltenright, Earl Riser, Blaine Rex, Roy Hanke, Carl Bercaw, and Walter Smith.

There was always a party to attend as Butler enjoyed an active social life. It was considered an honor to receive a formal invitation to a party given by the T. J. Knisely's, whose large home was located where the post office now stands. The Hardings, whose home still stands at the southwest corner of Liberty and Broadway, also hosted many social events. These were beautiful large homes with formal living and dining areas, a library, sitting room and parlor. Men wore black ties and women wore their best gowns and long white gloves. Progressive parties were always fun when couples walked from house to house around town.

In the days before talking movies, Butler had a silent movie house. It cost a nickel to see one's favorite screen idol of the day. Pauline Capp (Lake), Lucille Smurr, and Bertha Bevington would take turns playing the piano to provide mood music for the film. When "talkies" were developed, the movie house moved to the present site of the Knisely Bank parking lot on South Broadway.

Butler was a close community of family and friends during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Ev-

everyone enjoyed getting together on Saturday night to hear the weekly band concert. Some of the churches would have ice cream socials and merchants kept their shops open for business. Sunday was a day to take a stroll through town and stop into Trumbull's Soda Shoppe for a dish of ice cream.

Folks out in the country could not get to town as often as they needed, so the grocery stores sent out huckster wagons to sell their wares. These wagons were complete with shelves and cupboards that displayed calico cloth, food staples, and more. Many times the hucksters would receive fresh eggs and chickens in return for their products. Harold Nichols, who owned and operated Harold's Grocery Store for many years, once drove a huckster wagon. Townsfolk during this time could shop at the Preston Grocery Store and Stone's Drug Store

where Burt Kissinger and Wallace Knepper worked as clerks.

No one could say the women of Butler did not dress in the height of fashion. "Hobbie" skirts (long tight skirts with a slit up the side) and a variety of hats were the style of the day. Fancy hats decorated with plumes, feathers, flowers, net, and ribbons could be purchased at Cora Ame's or Mrs. Elden's Dry Goods and Millinery Shops.

Because refrigeration was poor, townspeople had to shop daily for their food. Fresh meat was available at Lake's Meat Market. Pauline Capp (Lake) took orders over the telephone and Joe McDonald delivered them on his bicycle. When the ice box became popular, the ice man would deliver ice. One of the ice men, Clifford Janke, would go out to the old gravel pit to cut ice every winter. Children liked to follow him on his delivery

Collins Tavern

232 S. Broadway
Beer — Liquor — Wine
Owner — LaVon Collins
since 1960

"Where Good Friends Gather"

route in hopes of getting a sliver of ice to enjoy on a hot day.

The 1920s saw the opening of Maxton Motors and the consolidation of two newspapers, "The Record" and "The DeKalb County Herald," by A. S. Powers who then published "The Record-Herald." L. F. Tombow, J. A. Kester, Roscoe Capp, and C. W. Mutzfeld served on the city council at the time.

There were two funeral homes and two banks in Butler: Phelp's Funeral Home and Johnson Funeral Home, and Knisely Brother's and Company State Bank and The First National Bank. Other businesses included the Sunshine Bakery, Tyson's Meat Market, and Gedde's Drug Store, where children bought their school books for many years.

It was fun just to go to the train depot to watch the people traveling through town on the New York Central. Or, one could take the train to Toledo and be back in town that night.

In the early 1930s, Butler went back to a town government due to a change in Indiana law. For the next twenty years, it was again governed by trustees.

During this time, going to the barbershop was a time to "catch-up" on what was happening around town.

Mark Harrigan, Bill Holtzberg, Joe (Toad) Latson, and Frank and John Sutton were all popular barbers. Haircuts cost 15 cents and customers had their own shaving mugs personalized with their names hung on a special rack on the wall.

It was always a great day when the "Ginnivans" came to town. The Norma Ginnivan Dramatic Company would pitch a tent and give dramatic performances over the course of several days. Many of the "Ginnivans" would stay overnight with families in town. This was also a time when hobos, who were "riding the rails," would come to the back doors of many of the homes in town where they would be given food to eat. Peddlers were also common, and one of the most popular was the peddler who came to sharpen knives and scissors.

Sports were popular in the 1930s, and almost every night one could watch a ball game being played by the Butler baseball team. An athletic field was located at the present site of the Butler Elementary School. Members of this popular team were Harvey Phelps, Otis Fisher, George Olds, Kenneth Oberlin, and Leroy Campbell.

By 1936, it was necessary to build a new Butler High School which included a large gymnasium. The "old gym," as it is now called, is still in use today.

During this time in Butler, one could buy a new car at Maxton Motors for \$445 and the latest fashions could be found at Miller and Sturgis. Dr. R. H. Riddle was practicing dentistry and Earl Frisbee was the town optometrist. Frisbee's wife, Carolyn, taught piano for sixty years from her home on North Broadway. Maude Ocker was a clerk at Tess and Whites, Blanche Osmun was clerk at Hun-



Meadowhaven Healthcare Center

CARING is what we do best

520 West Liberty Street
Butler, In. 46721

219/868-2164

sicker's 5 Cents to a Dime, Charles Oberlin was mail carrier, L. E. Paine was proprietor of the Sunshine Bakery, and Lee Noragon operated the Noragon and Sons Grain Elevator which was located at the present site of the city parking lot on South Broadway.

Butler was keeping up with an ever-changing world. In 1938, the last blacksmith shop, Hiner's Blacksmith Shop, was torn down. One of the employees, Bruce Boyd, went into the business of selling cars.

In 1941, Butler celebrated its 100th birthday. Businesses that joined in the celebration were Underhill's Market, Banbury's 5 Cents to a Dime, Harold's Home Store, Cobb's Cafe, Brownie's, Tombow Floral, The Hub, and Dick-erhoof's Market.

Bowling was introduced to Butler when Clifford Janke and George Fuller opened a bowling alley on South Broadway. Many of the young people worked at the bowling alley as "pin boys."

Children loved to stop on their way home from school to buy candy at the little candy store that was located in the Janke lumber yard. The lumber yard was operated by Clifford and Hazel Janke.

By the 1950s, old factories such as the milk condensery, tomato factory, and basket factory were replaced with many new industries. This marked the beginning of great industrial growth for Butler as new companies such as Hendrickson Tandem Company, Universal Tool and Stamping, Federal Fertilizer Company, Bohn Aluminum and Brass, Crane Edmund Corporation, and Commercial Shearing and Stamping Company moved to town.

There were also many changes to the downtown section of Butler. Broadway was widened to allow for

PERFECT FIGURE



FITNESS SALON

TRY THE EASY WAY

NO SWEAT

NO SORE MUSCLES

VISIT OUR SUNTAN ROOM
(WOLFF SYSTEM)

239 S. BROADWAY
BUTLER, INDIANA

Owner/Operator
Jeanette Salinas

868-2483

angle parking and parking meters were installed. A new water main was laid and Butler once again became a city in 1956. Leighton Tombow was elected mayor.

Ray McCann served as mayor in 1960. A new city hall and post office were built, and there was increased real estate development with the building of Park Lane subdivision. A trailer park was developed on Canal Street in 1966 to meet the growing housing needs of the community.

In the 1960s, one could shop at Sarahbell's Dress Shop, Wendell Cooper's Jewelry Store, Diehl's Jewelry Store, Parkison's TV, H. W. Knisely's Menswear, and could have a car serviced at Red's Texaco operated by Red VanZile, Butler Shell Station operated by Hank Berndt or the Mobil Station operated by Roger Laub.

Butler celebrated its Gold n' Diamond Jubilee in 1966, representing 125 years of growth and progress.

Congratulations
 Butler
 On
 150 years

Cost of Living Comparison

	1966 Price		1991 Price	
Milk	three half-gallons	\$1	two half-gallons	\$1.99
Bread	five loaves	\$1	three loaves	\$1
Bananas	one pound	\$.10	one pound	\$.39
Eggs	Grade A, three dozen	\$1	Grade A, three dozen	\$1.99
Tomatoes	one pound	\$.19	one pound	\$.89
Mayonnaise	one quart	\$.59	one quart	\$2.39
Newspaper subscription	one year	\$3	one year	\$15
House	1100 square foot	\$13,000	1100 square foot	\$52,000
Portable TV	19 inch screen	\$128.99	19 inch screen	\$339
Hair care	permanent	\$6.95	permanent	\$35
Washing machines		\$168		\$449
Automobile	*1968 Chevrolet Camaro	\$3300	1991 Camaro	\$15,000
	*1969 Olds- mobile 98	\$5900	1991 Olds 98	\$26,000
	*1966 Price not available			



Butler City Hall, 120 West Main Street, was erected in 1963. It is the headquarters for the police and fire departments, EMS, and council chambers.

The names of the town and its postmasters are as follows:

Name of Post Office	Date Established	Date Closed or Name Change	Name of Postmaster	Date of Appt.
Oak Hill	6-13-1851	6-11-1853	Thomas Fosdick	6-11-1853
Norristown	6-11-1853	8-20-1859	William H. Madden	
			George L. Noble	5-19-1854
			William Harding	10-15-1855
			Joseph R. Lanning	5-21-1856
			William K. Straight	4-16-1859
Jarvis	8-20-1859	7-06-1868	Thomas J. Sheldon	6-21-1861
			Edward W. Fosdick	11-13-1864
			Solomon Rogers	4-24-1865
			John J. Hoopengartner	6-19-1868
			or	7-06-1868
Butler Station?				
Butler	7-06-1868		William Carpenter	11-17-1868
			Ida Carpenter	5-07-1877
			Cyrus S. Stoy	7-09-1885
			Adolphus G. Jones	5-12-1890
			John J. Oberlin	6-12-1894
			J. Bruce Pessell	1-30-1915
			Ellsworth A. Eckright	6-19-1923
			Rumsin C. Campbell	2-21-1923
			T. M. Long	5-26-1928
			Clyde B. Oberlin	4-30-1936
			Walter M. Smith	12-01-1950
			Richard Dielman	1-02-1976
			Oleta E. Hudson	10-17-1981



The Butler Clinic, Beech and Washington Streets, is a satellite facility for DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

How Did Butler Get Its Name?

By John Martin Smith

The name of the town we know as Butler has been changed several times. It was first called Norristown, obviously after Charles Norris who had plotted a few lots at the southwest corner of Main and Broadway Streets. On March 8, 1855, Amasa Smith plotted twenty-five lots lying west of the Norris plot. He called these lots "West Butler." This is the first use of the name "Butler" encountered in DeKalb County records.

On July 31, 1856, the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad joined with the Logansport and Northern Indiana Railroad and filed the plot of the "Village of Butler." A mechanics lien dated November 24, 1857, uses the wording "... town of Norristown." Another mechanics lien

dated July 15, 1858, refers to a lot in "... the Village of Butler." Thus, during this period, the town was referred to as both Norristown and Butler.

The first post office in the area was established in 1851 and was located south of Butler at Oak Hill. In 1853 the post office was moved to Norristown and became known by that name. In 1859 the name of the post office was changed to Jarvis, probably after John B. Jarvis, who was chief engineer and a director of the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad. The same Jarvis was instrumental in plotting Corunna and Waterloo. The names Jarvis and Jarvis were used interchangeably.

The railroad apparently began calling the stop "Butler Station" at some point. A certificate of election recorded September 6, 1866, uses the name Butler Station. A deed recorded March 17, 1866, uses the name Jarvis, suggesting that these two names were used simultaneously for a while.

On July 6, 1868, the name of the post office was officially changed to Butler. There had been a post office known as "Butler" in Butler Township from February 7, 1840. On January 14, 1868, the name of that post office was changed to New Era, thus freeing the name Butler for the use by the town. The origin of the name Butler remains a puzzle.

Butler native Richard Leslie Brown has extensively researched the origin of the name and concludes that Butler was named after Charles Butler, who was a director of the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana railroad at the time it was built through the town.

Butler Bowl Restaurant and Lounge

634 East Main

Dine In or Carry Out
868-5908

Specializing In: Tires • Alignment • Wheel Balancing
Tune-Up • Oil Change • Minor Mechanical Repairs
• Air Conditioning



*Tulé's
Service
Center*

Clare (J R.) Tule

110 Basket Factory RD.
Butler, Indiana 46721

Telephone:
(219) 868-5242

Charles Butler was a lawyer and businessman. He was the founder of Hobart College at Geneva, New York, and the Union Theological Seminary at New York City. He was an early proponent of the village of Chicago, and his brother-in-law served as its first mayor. Indeed, the name could have originated with the railroad and the site could have been named in honor of Charles Butler, although its use as early as 1855 tends to refute this theory.

Another strong possibility is that the name originated from the Butler family, early settlers in the southeast corner of DeKalb County. It is likely that Butler Township was named after this family. Contrary to this theory are the facts that the Butler family was probably the second family to settle in DeKalb County, although there is no place named "Houlton" (except for a school), and the area where they settled in the northeast part of the county was much closer to the town of Butler.

There appears to be no conclusive answer to this question without additional evidence coming to light. The town may have also been called Junction for a while, due to the junction of the original two railroads, and perhaps Mudd Junction, probably in derision.

Coffee Cup



Jim & Glenda Eck

503 W. Main
Butler, In.

DeKalb Iron & Metal, Inc.

5509 U S Hwy 6 W.
Butler, IN
868-5276



PHONE 219-868-2800
DAVID R. BUSS - OWNER

Carhartt

Worker's World

FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING FOR THE
WORKING WORLD

Famous Carhartt Clothing, Regular And King
Sizes Available Safety Shoes And Boots For
Men And Women

240 South Broadway
Butler, IN 46721

*Your
One Stop
Building
Supply
Center!*

Lutterbein Lumber Co.

444 North Michigan Avenue
Edgerton, Ohio 43517
(419) 298-2371
Toll Free 1-800-892-6708
FAX (419) 298-2667

Railroad History of Butler

By John Martin Smith

Railroads have played a large role in the founding and growth of Butler. Indeed, it is likely that Butler could have been another ghost town which never grew, had it not been for the railroads.

Three major railroads intersected at Butler, making it a major railroad center from the 1860s through the 1930s. There were major railroad yards, including a roundhouse and several buildings. Many trains originated at Butler and their crews lived here.

During the golden era of the railroads at Butler, as many as sixty trains per day passed through Butler on three railroads.

Here follows a brief history of each of these three railroads:

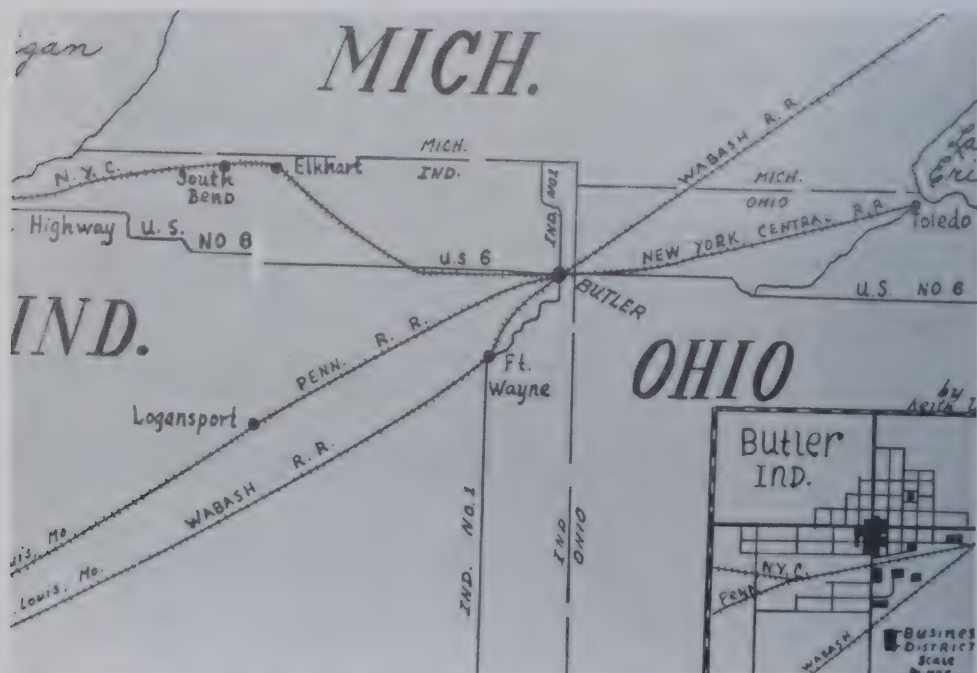
Eel River and Vandalia Railroads

The first attempt to build a railroad through DeKalb County was the Auburn and Eel River Valley Railroad which was to be built from Logansport to Auburn.

As the horizons broadened, the name of the railroad was changed to the Logansport and Northern Indiana Railroad Company.

The surveyors for the Logansport and Northern Indiana Railroad placed stakes through the county to delineate the center line of the proposed railroad. Right-of-way agents then contacted the owners of the lands and attempted to contract for the purchase of the right-of-way.

The Logansport and Northern Indiana Railroad terminated at Butler,



This railroad map shows the intersection of three major railroads at Butler. The route of the New York Central Railroad was swung south to meet the Eel River Railroad (later the Pennsylvania Railroad) at Butler. (Photo contributed by John Martin Smith)

but it was intended to extend the railroad on to Detroit sometime in the future. The railroad proceeded to purchase right-of-way, ninety-nine feet in width, east of Butler to the state line.

In the meantime, the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana was proposed in an east-west direction through northern Indiana. It was important to both railroads that this new road make connection with the Logansport and Northern Indiana Railroad at Butler. The right-of-way was more than sufficient for two sets of tracks, so the Logansport and Northern Indiana leased an interest in the right of way for a period of 999 years for the one time payment of \$2,065. The right to cross the tracks of the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana railroad was reserved, so that the Logansport and Northern Indiana Railroad could be extended to Detroit.

The railroad was not to be built for some time, however. The Articles of Association of the Detroit, Eel River & Illinois Railroad were filed with the Indiana Secretary of State on November 4, 1868. This company apparently acquired the right-of-way that belonged to the Logansport and Northern Indiana Railroad. Construction was not started, though, until 1872 when the segment from Denver, Indi-

ana, to Auburn was completed. Shortly thereafter the rails reached Logansport. The Auburn to Butler segment was completed October 18, 1873, resulting in 93.1 miles of railroad.

The Detroit, Eel River & Illinois Railroad was not financially successful, and on April 3, 1877, the Cass Circuit Court rendered a decree of foreclosure. On July 6, 1877, the railroad assets were sold to James F. Joy and Elijah Smith, and they in turn organized the Eel River Railroad Company to operate the line.

Their operation lasted only two years. On August 26, 1879, the Eel River was leased to Jay Gould's expanding Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific and became part of the through route from St. Louis to Detroit. This segment connected the main line of the Wabash at Logansport and later Clymers with the line from St. Louis to Toledo.

At Butler, connections were made with the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern. The Butler Company, at Butler, used the Eel River to ship its windmills and related products to the south.

For a time, the Eel River provided a link in the Wabash's Chicago to Detroit Line. The Wabash had track-age rights over the Chicago & Atlantic (later Erie) from the Illinois-Indiana state line to Laketon Junction (New-

Philip L. Schnelker, Inc.

Consulting Engineers

2777 Maplecrest Road

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46815

ton), hence over the Eel River to Butler and the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern to Detroit. When the Wabash completed its line from Clarke Junction to Montpelier, Ohio, in 1895, this use was terminated. Later the Wabash interests constructed a railroad from Detroit to Butler. This further diminished the usefulness of the Eel River. The Wabash then constructed its line from New Haven 25.6 miles to Butler. Thereafter, the Wabash had no further use for the Eel River.

In the meantime, the assets of the Eel River were again foreclosed upon and were conveyed to Elijah Smith, William Crapo, and Daniel Querk on June 10, 1901. On September 12, 1901, they conveyed the assets to the newly formed Logansport and Toledo Railroad Company which was consolidated on December 29, 1904, to form the Vandalia Railroad Com-

pany. The Vandalia was operated until 1916 when, as a result of a merger, the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Company was formed and continued to operate the old Eel River line.

In 1926 fourteen trains passed through Butler each day on the Eel River. Butler was the terminal for the Detroit and Toledo runs and the Chicago and Logansport runs. The railroad employed seventy trainmen, the majority of who lived in Butler. The yards were enlarged in 1926 with additional sidetracks.

On September 28, 1955, the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad was merged into the Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington Railroad. From the formation of the Logansport & Toledo Railroad in 1904, all of the subsequent owners were proprietary companies of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Harry Funston of Butler was one of the last conductors on this line and had served as a brakeman in earlier years. Locally the railroad was known as the Eel River, the Vandalia, or the Pennsylvania. The freight station in Butler was one of the line's last remaining structures. It was torn down for lumber by Paul Gloy in the late 1950s.

The Eel River was gradually relegated to purely local service. Business declined along the route. The first segment to be abandoned was the 10.29 mile section from Auburn to Butler. Both towns had adequate service from their other railroads, and there was not much rail traffic between the two towns. Furthermore, the track had not been maintained, and an embargo was placed on it on June 12, 1953.

It was formally abandoned on June

Jimmie Eck
Eck's
Backhoe Service

312 N. Canal St.
 Butler, In.
868-2037

Meyer Furniture

Corner U.S. 6 & St. Rd. 1
 Butler, IN 46721
 (219) 868-5446



Bob & Maxine Meyer

27, 1954. The track was taken up in July 1956.

With the demise of the Auburn-Butler segment, the line from Auburn to Churubusco was served from Fort Wayne via the Grand Rapids and Indiana Branch which crossed at LaOtto. The segment from Churubusco to Columbia City was abandoned in 1961. The section from Auburn to Columbia City was abandoned in the 1970s and the track removed.

The Indiana and Michigan Electric Company acquired easement rights over the Butler to Auburn line and has a high voltage line along the route from its substation at Auburn to Butler. State Road 205 was built along the right-of-way from Old State Road 327 to Columbia City.

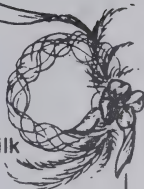
The railroad right-of-way has been bulldozed level and is now under cultivation in many areas of the county. The route of the old Eel River may still be traced through the county by the observant. There are still a number of wood trestles extant and an I-69 bridge over the old right-of-way provides a clue as to its location.

Marsha's Creations

Custom Floral Designs In Silk
For All Occasions

MARSHA LANNING
0998 SR 1
Butler, IN 46721

(219) 868-5765 Bus.
(219) 868-2292 Res.



Charles Foster Blaker
Post 202
Butler, In.

For God And Country





J. Reynold Johnson
Reynold Jon Johnson
Eric H. Johnson

Johnson Funeral Home

Established 1914

212 N. Broadway
Butler, Indiana 46721

(219) 868-2127

Lake Shore and Michigan Southern and New York Central

The first railroad actually constructed through DeKalb County was the east-west line through Butler, Waterloo, and Corunna which is today usually called the New York Central. It was very important to the development of the county.

Its history is a tangled maze of mergers and consolidations. The story starts with the formation of the Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad, which was incorporated in 1833 and built 33 miles of track from Toledo to Adrian, Michigan. The first cars on this early line were drawn by horses. In 1837 its first engine, called the Adrian, was acquired. By 1840 the line reached Hillsdale, Michigan, and in the same year the name was changed to the Michigan Southern.

In 1852 the line was extended west and met the Northern Indiana railroad which established through service from Toledo to Chicago. The line was crooked and meandering which resulted in very slow speeds. A faster and more direct route was more desirable.

The possibilities of a more direct

route intrigued the Northern Indiana Railroad civil engineers. They were already building a line from Elkhart to Ligonier and started to study the possibility of going on east to Toledo. The Black Swamp area of northwestern Ohio was a formidable obstacle, but settlement in the area was resulting in its drainage. Surveys into DeKalb County were made as early as 1852 and 1853. Interest was sparked by the proposed railroad to be built from Logansport to Butler (then Norristown) by the Logansport and Indiana Railroad Company in 1855.

The Northern Indiana Railroad Company of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio was consolidated with the Michigan Southern Railroad Company of Michigan on April 25, 1855, to form the Michigan and Northern Indiana Railroad Company. It was this company that proceeded to build the line which would stretch from Toledo to Chicago.

John H. Sargent and his assistant E. L. Barber were the principal civil engineers charged with planning the road. They told the railroad management that they could transverse northwestern Ohio in a straight line. Sargent said, "We can draw a line through the air and follow it without deviation." Thus, the railroad came to be known as the Air Line.

Construction reached Delta, Ohio, in early 1854, and Archbold and Bryan were reached in early 1855. It took almost two years to bridge the swamps of northwestern Ohio, and Butler was not reached until May 27, 1856, when the first train arrived from the east.

In the meantime crews from the former Northern Indiana Railroad were constructing the railroad from Elkhart. This was completed in 1858 when the two segments were joined at

Higley Book Store

108 W. OAK STREET
BUTLER, INDIANA 46721

BIBLES GIFTS
BOOKS CRAFTS



PHONE 868-2061

CHURCH AND SUNDAY
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Butler. There were then 20.5 miles of main track and 5.37 miles of side track in DeKalb County.

When it was built, the segment from Toledo to Butler, a distance of 68.5 miles, was the longest stretch of straight track in the country. A few years later a longer section of 78.8 miles was built by the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railway between Hamlet and Wilmington, North Carolina. This line is now operated by the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, a subsidiary of CSX Corporation. These two lines were still the longest and second longest segments in the country.

On April 6, 1869, the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad Company were consolidated with the Lake Shore Railway Company of Ohio and Pennsylvania to form the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company with trackage in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Then on June 22, 1869, a further consolidation brought in the Buffalo and Erie Railroad Company of New York and Pennsylvania. This extended trackage into New York. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern system extended from Buffalo to Chicago with many branches into southern Michigan to cities such as Grand Rapids, Lansing, Jackson, and Detroit. It has massive depots in Chicago, Toledo, Cleveland, Erie, and Buffalo.

On September 1, 1882, the Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw line was leased to the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, resulting in two lines being operated by this company through DeKalb County.

The New York Central Railroad Company was incorporated on April 29, 1914, as a consolidation of eleven other railroads including the Lake

Young

Electric - Plumbing - Heating

5003 CR 40

Butler, Indiana 46721

925-0395

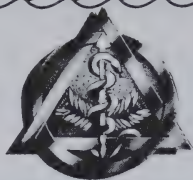
Shore and Michigan Southern and Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw lines through DeKalb County.

This corporate structure continued until February 1, 1968, when the New York Central Railroad was merged into the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to form the Pennsylvania, New York Central Transportation Company. This cumbersome name was changed to Penn Central Transportation Company on October 1, 1969. On October 24, 1978, the name was again changed to the Penn Central Corporation.

At the time of this merger, the Pennsylvania Railroad controlled the old Eel River tracks. Thus the Penn Central operated the former Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw, and Eel River trackage through DeKalb County for awhile.

The Penn Central filed bankruptcy in 1970, and in 1976 the United States government formed Conrail Corporation to operate the Penn Central and other financially distressed railroads. It has operated under Conrail until the present time.

This railroad was directly respon-



**Dr. & Mrs.
Wendell D. Hughes**

34 years
Family Dentistry
Butler, Ind.

sible for the establishment of two of our present towns—Waterloo and Corunna, for one of our ghost towns—Sedan, and for the growth of one of our towns—Norristown, now Butler.

Norristown was a sleepy little village of forty-one people when the railroad came through. By 1920 it had grown to about three thousand inhabitants, largely due to the intersection of several railroads.

As a new railroad was built, it was in its best interests to have frequent stops for shipping and receiving passengers and freight. Also, the early steam engines had to take on wood and water frequently. The railroad usually bought land every six to eight miles for a station. In many cases they purchased a wide strip of land at these points so they could control access to their line. This was the case at Butler, Waterloo, Sedan, and Corunna. The land was then leased to companies desiring access to the railroad. Much of this land is still owned by the railroad, although it can now be purchased from Conrail.

The early railroads were very labor intensive and employed hundreds of people along their lines. Section crews resided at every town, along with station personnel, signal personnel, and express personnel. Railroads were

Bill Rosenberry

Excavating - Snow Removal

5307 Co. Rd. 36A
Butler, In.

925-0721

major employers in all of our towns.

Every town had at least one grain mill from which grain was shipped away from DeKalb County. It was extremely important that farmers had a point from which to ship grain. DeKalb County itself could not consume more than 2.5% of the grain grown here. Grain was worthless if there was no market for it. The DeKalb County Farm Bureau Co-op is the only point from which grain can now be shipped by rail on the Conrail line. It has recently installed siding on its land sufficient to make up whole train loads of grain to be shipped out on Control. It has its own switch engine to move cars around in assembling a train.

Passenger, mail, and express service was a major aspect of railroad business. The crack 20th Century Limited passed through DeKalb County daily. Mail and express was dispatched and received about every two hours through the day. Passenger service was discontinued in 1971, and there was no service of any kind from 1972 to 1975. Then Amtrak resumed service in 1975 with two daily trains which pass through DeKalb County. The closest stop is at Waterloo.

Wabash

The early years of the Wabash

Railroad are confusing and not relevant to Butler. The railroad started in the St. Louis area and at first went west. It gradually expanded to eastern points.

The first entry into Indiana began in 1853 when the Toledo Associates formed the Toledo & Illinois railroad to build a line from Toledo to the Indiana state line, and the Lake Erie, Wabash, and St. Louis Railroad to build the line across the State of Indiana. The line was to follow the same general path as the Wabash and Erie Canal which was being abandoned. This was how the Wabash Railroad eventually got its name.

Construction began at Toledo in 1854, and by 1855 the track was finished to New Haven, Indiana. From there the track generally followed the Wabash River to Attica, Indiana, where it crossed the Wabash River for the last time and went straight west and connected with the Great Western Railroad in Illinois. This line did not enter DeKalb County but is important to the line which eventually did enter DeKalb County.

In accordance with the plans of The Toledo Associates, the Toledo & Illinois and the Lake Erie, Wabash and St. Louis Railroads were merged in 1856 to form the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railroad. This railroad went through a corporate reorganization in 1858 and changed its name to the Toledo & Wabash Railway. This later became the Wabash Railway.

Jay Gould was one of the most notorious railroad barons in history. He acquired the Wabash Railway and the St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern Railroad which was merged into one continuous line 715 miles long linking Toledo with Kansas City. This railroad was called the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railroad Company in

1879 and formed the central link in the Gould plan, which envisioned a transcontinental railroad.

At this time the Detroit-Windsor area was developing into an important center of commerce. The Grand Trunk Railway channeled an enormous volume of freight from eastern Canada to Detroit. This was also an important Great Lakes Port.

The Detroit, Butler & St. Louis Railroad was formed on February 11, 1880, to build a railroad from Detroit to Butler, which would connect with the Eel River Division which had been acquired by the Gould interests.

By the end of 1881 track was completed from Delray, Michigan, which was near Detroit, to Butler. The connection was then made with the Eel River line which went southwest through DeKalb County and then to Logansport.

Cars bound for Detroit were separated at Logansport and sent to Butler on the Eel River and then to Detroit over the Detroit, Butler & St. Louis line. Butler became an important division point. The Eel River operated extensive yards including a round house and extensive freight and passenger facilities. These were located west of Broadway and south of the New York Central tracks in the area now occupied by The Eagles Lodge and Hendrickson Tandem, Inc.

HOUSER'S GREENHOUSE

Located On CR 22 West Of CR 61
Butler, IN Closed Sundays

PHONE 868-5250

- Bedding Plants
- Vegetables
- Flowers
- Seeds

In 1881 the Detroit, Butler & St. Louis was merged into the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific.

During the period from 1880 until 1902, Butler was an important rail center where the New York Central, Wabash and Eel River connected. The town grew rapidly with the employment provided by railroads.

At its peak in 1884 the Gould system had 3,549 miles of track and connections ranged from Omaha to Detroit. The company operated a double line through northeastern Indiana until 1902. One line went from New Haven to Toledo and the other from Butler to Detroit. In 1902 a line was constructed from Butler to New Haven which connected the main line directly with Detroit. As Detroit became more important, the New Haven to Toledo line became a branch operation, and the New Haven, Butler to Detroit line became the main line. With this connection, the yards at Butler became less important, and the Eel River line was sold to the Pennsylvania railroad in 1928.

The Wabash was acquired by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1928. The Wabash was the first class one railroad to go into bankruptcy during the Depression. The company was under a receiver until 1941.

In 1926 the Wabash had eight pas-

senger and forty freight trains passing through DeKalb County daily. An additional side track was surveyed west of Butler in 1926 and was built shortly thereafter. This enabled more trains to pass at Butler.

The railroad owned two houses on South Broadway which were used for crew housing. They also owned 42 acres of land lying between their tracks and the New York Central tracks. Part of the Butler Company and the condensery were located on this tract, and each was served by two side tracks.

In 1949 the Wabash began to use diesel locomotives and was exclusively diesel by 1953. This ended the romantic era of the steam engines on this line.

In 1960 the Norfolk and Western merged with the Nickel Plate. The Pennsylvania was discussing merger



Happy Tails

Professional Grooming & Pet Supplies

Proprietor: Robyn Miller

7095 CR 40
Butler, IN 46721

Phone: 868-5659

ARMSTRONG FLORAL



FLOWERS — BALLOONS
& MORE



313 W. GREEN
BUTLER, IN



868-2571

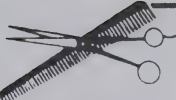
with the New York Central and offered its Wabash interests to the Norfolk and Western. This merger was completed in 1964, and the Wabash became the Norfolk and Western.

This line has carried millions of tons of freight through DeKalb County. Automobiles have been shipped between Detroit and St. Louis for years. The only Wabash depot in DeKalb County was at Butler. It was closed in the 1960s and razed by the railroad in 1984.

Many crack passenger trains used this route, including the Wabash Canonball and the Banner Blue. Passenger service declined during the 1960s and was eventually discontinued. These fast trains were a treat to see streaking through the DeKalb County countryside.

Mudd Junction

(About 1852) a railroad was located called the Eel River Railroad, running from Logansport, Indiana, in a north-east direction to Norristown, now Butler. The company saw that they had no outlet to the eastern markets. About this time the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Railroad Company had under consideration the building of an Air Line road running from Air Line Junction, Toledo, Ohio, to Elkhart, Indiana. They had nearly established the line. It went 12 miles north of Butler, near Metz Corners. The Eel River Company, seeing that they were cut out of an outlet east, proposed to the MS & NI Company to form a junction at Norristown, and on the 17th day of June, 1854, the directors of each company met at Norristown and perfected arrangements whereby the MS & NI changed their route and made it an Air Line from Toledo Junction to Norristown. This formed a junction



CINDY McENTARFER
Owner-Stylist

LISA GERARDOT, Stylist

STEPHANIE EMENHISER, Stylist

Head Quarters

 **REDKEN**

(219) 868-5431
300 W. Oak St.
Butler, IN 46721

with the Eel River and the town was called Mudd Junction for awhile. Then it was changed to Jarvis.

The Railroad Company had named the station Butler. The town was Jarvis and the post office Norristown. This caused considerable annoyance in the postal service. We finally got it straightened out and abandoned Jarvis, Norristown, Junction and Mudd Junction, for it was called most everything in our early struggles. But we weathered it through and consolidated on the name Butler.

I have now explained how we happened to have a city in this vicinity; otherwise Butler would have been twelve miles north of us and we would have been without a town on a railroad in this part of the country. As it is we are blessed with three railroads and the liveliest city in northern Indiana.

Written by W. L. Blair, who came to Butler in 1856. Special Edition of DeKalb County Herald published in 1896.

Section Gangs

The unsung heroes of the railroad history of DeKalb County are those many men who labored as section hands. They worked hard and were paid little. All of the work was done by hand in all kinds of weather. When a tie needed to be replaced, the blast stone was raked out with a large iron rake. The spikes in the old ties were pulled by hand with a steel lever. The old tie was pounded out with a sledge. The new tie was then pounded in, again by hand. New spikes were then driven in with pointed sledges weighing twelve or more pounds. It took a good man to do this.

Section crews were located at every town on the railroad. These crews responsible for certain segment of track consisting of from four to six miles. The crews took great pride in their segments and worked hard to maintain them in good condition. They patrolled their track and moved their materials and tools on handcars which were at first propelled by muscle power and then by gasoline engines. The powered handcars were called putt-putts due to the noise their engines made. They had little garages along the tracks near the depots where

these were kept. The handcars had long handles extending from both ends with which the men could pick them up and turn them around and place them on or remove them from the track. They also had four-wheel trailers to haul tools and materials.

Major maintenance was done by crews brought in each year. Many of these men were black. They lived on old passenger cars which were placed on sidings in Waterloo or Butler. They provided the first personal contact with the Negro race for many DeKalb County people.

These crews had some powered equipment such as cranes, but much of the work was done by hand. They were set off along side the tracks by a crane. The crew pulled the spikes from the old rail and then picked it up with large tongs handled by two men, one on each side. From thirty to forty men with from 15 to 20 pairs of tongs could pick up a length of rail. The old ties were removed and replaced, and then the process was repeated to move the new length into place. The sight of these muscular men driving spikes with their hammers swinging far over their heads was indeed spectacular.



This view looks south on Broadway from the Main Street intersection.

Up and Down the Streets of Butler

Compiled by Paul Mutzfeld

Assisted by Bruce Blair and Robert Meyer

There have been many types and kinds of business places in Butler since it was founded 150 years ago.

Some were in business only a short time and some for many years.

This is an attempt to give the present business places by location, and something that was at the same loca-

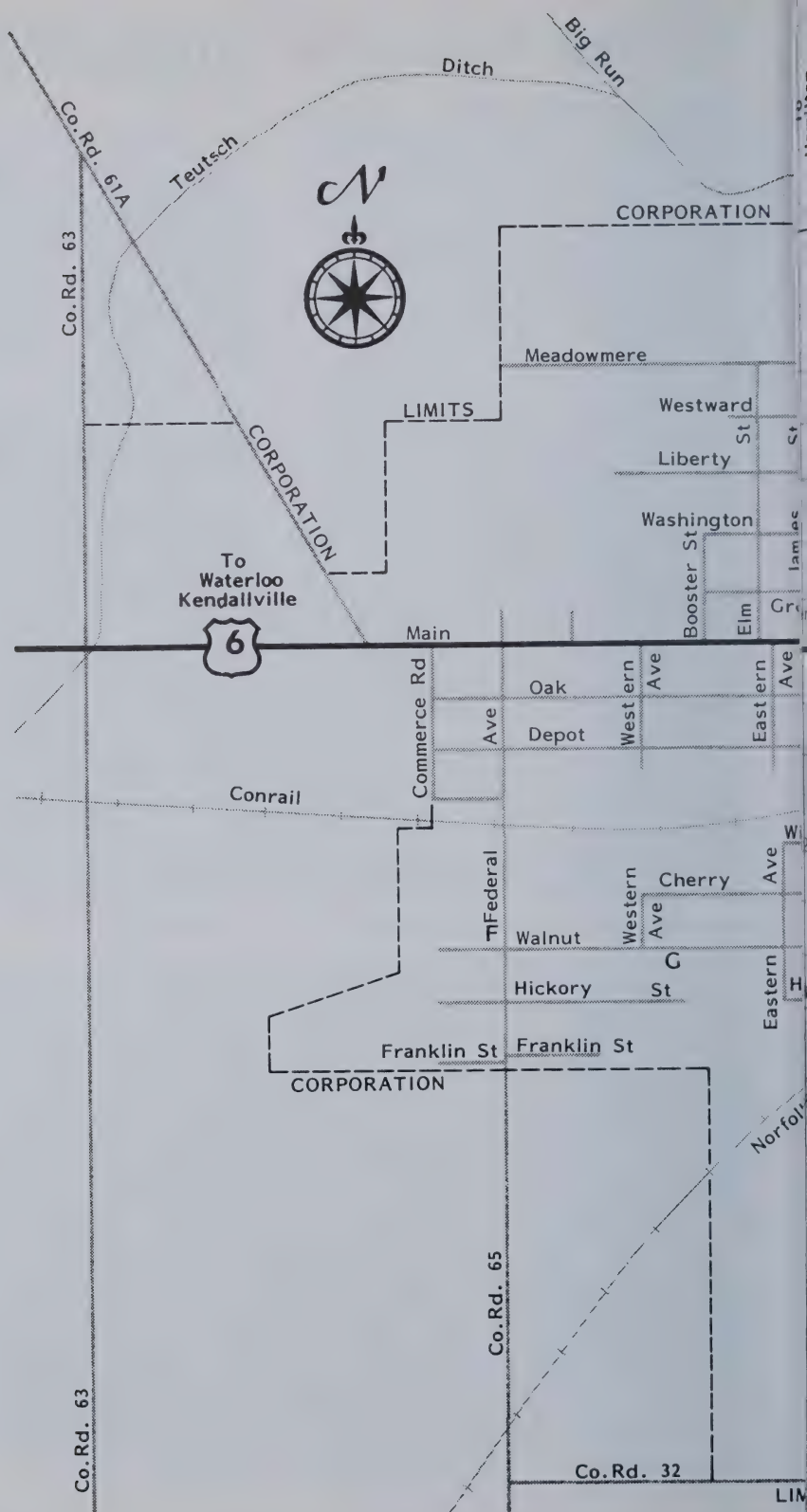
tion twenty to fifty years ago, also something that was at the location more than fifty years ago. No attempt was made to include all the changes during the years and many are listed only as type of business and not by owners' names.



Businesses in the 200 block of South Broadway, east side, looking north.



Businesses in the 100 block of South Broadway, west side, looking north.



Hamilton
Angola

1

Butler

Big

LIMITS

Broadway

Dr
St

Monroe St

St

St

St

St

N. Ivy Ln

Maxton Dr

S. Ivy Ln

N. Park Ln

Park Ln

St

S. Park Ln

St

Janke St

St

C

Maple St

B

St

St



To Edgerton, Ohio

Co. Rd. 28

St

Pearl St

Canal St

Ash St

Bele St

Short St

R.R.

Erie St

Railroad St

w D St

St

St

ory St

outhern

Broadway

Industrial Park

R. E. Jones

Paul E. Mutzfeld Dr

Rd

Co. Rd. 30

CORPORATION

To Fort Wayne

1

S

Location Present		20 to 50 years ago	Over 50 years ago
North Broadway East Side			
101	Meyer Furniture	Standard Station	Underhill Market
107	Meyer Furniture	Haddix Shoe Repair	Tire Repair Shop
109	Meyer Furniture		Beauty Shop
119	Post Office	Post Office	T. J. Knisely Residence
201	Butler Veterinary	Dr. D. O. Miller Paul Lane, Inc.	Dr. L. Harrison
North Broadway West Side			
104	Dr. L. G. Payne Dentist	Restaurant	C. J. Maxton
106		Remark Mfg. Co.	Remark Mfg. Co.
110	Maxton Motors	Gladys Haddix	Millinery Store
118	American Legion	American Legion	Phelps Funeral Home
212	Johnson Funeral Home	Johnson Funeral Home	Johnson Funeral Home
South Broadway East Side			
101		Dry Cleaner Texaco Station	Restaurant Barber Shop
105	Carol Beauty Shop	Dovey Diner	Husselman Music Store Mutzfeld Harness Shop
107	The Sun Connection	Diehl Jewelry	Diehl Jewelry
117	Hotel Butler Residential Center	Hotel Butler Rest Home	Hotel Butler
123	Likes TV & Appliances	Gamble Store	Yost Restaurant
127	Moore Pizza	Sarahbell Dress Shop Eyster Drug Store	Horner Drug Store Stone Drug Store
129	Community Helpers Thrift Store	Oberlin Appliances Dickerhoof Auto	Abrams Movie Theater Trumbull Soda Shop Brown Candy Store
135	Sprague New & Used	Barrett 5¢ to \$1	Bechtol Bakery Telschow Bakery
139	Irish Music	Barrett 5¢ to \$1	Banbury 5¢ to \$1 Hunsicker 5¢ to \$1
201	City Offices	Restaurant Dal's News Stand	Husselman Music Store Havilan Tavern
205		Johnson Furniture	Bakery
207		Johnson Furniture	Johnson Furniture
211	Nugen Storage	Post Office	Post Office
215	Nugen Storage	Mutzfeld Furniture	Mutzfeld Hardware
217	Nugen Storage	Mutzfeld Furniture	Mutzfeld Hardware
	Upstairs, Opera House and	H.S. Played Basketball	there prior to 1923
221	Nanas Stitchin Station	Cooper Jewelry	Blume Clothing Elden Millinery
223	Nanas Stitchin Station	Cooper Jewelry	Telephone Office Grocery
225	Video Paradise	In Fashion Sarahbell Dress Shop	Rex Meat Market
235	M & M. Auto Sales	Casebere Welding	Butler Hatchery Creamery, Ice Cream
239	Perfect Figure	Telephone Office	Groff Garage

Location Present		20 to 50 years ago	Over 50 years ago
243	Collins Laundry & Car Wash	Collins Laundry & Car Wash	Sudborough Jewelry Hotel
325	The Butler Co.	The Butler Co.	The Butler Co.
501	Sebert Oil Co.	Mold Service, Inc.	Marshall Clothing Co.
503	Maxton Body Shop	Maxton Body Shop	
South Broadway West Side			
100	Miller Park	Parkison T.V. Kaiser Grocery	Kroger Grocery Barber Shop
108	Schaab Barber Shop		Dari Bar
110	Apartment	License Branch Barber Shop	Grocery
112		A. P. Store	Phelps Furniture
114	Total Rental & Sales	Bowling Alleys	Gengnagel Hardware
118		Marshall Clothing	Tyson Meat Market
124	Kandel Insurance	Kandel Insurance C. Smith Insurance	Oberlin Insurance Oberlin Restaurant
126	Towne Hardware	Gamble Store Oberlin Grocery	Oberlin Grocery
128	Towne Hardware	Oberlin Grocery	Oberlin Grocery
132	Towne Hardware	H. W. Knisely Mens Wear	Tess & White
136	Mom's Eaten Haus	Geddes Drug Store	Geddes Drug Store
140	Parking	Band Stand	C. Brown Candy
200	Knisely National Bank Knisely National Bank	Knisely National Bank Miller Sturgis	Knisely Bros. State Bank Kiplinger Miller Knisely Dry Goods
	Bank Parking Lot	Butler Theatre Barber Shop Restaurant	Butler Theatre Barber Shop Restaurant Cigar Store
230	Collins Tavern	Collins Tavern	Post Office Philips Drug Store
240	Workers World Workers World	I & M Electric	Oberlin Cigar & Billiards
300	City Parking Lot	City Parking Lot	First Movie in Butler
	City Storage	Farm Bureau Co-op Elevator	Creamery Ice Storage House Noragon & Son Elevator
324	Eagles Lodge	Nazarene Church	Coal Feed & Grain Grocery
East Main Street North Side			
101	Meyer Furniture	Standard Oil Stn.	Underhill Meat Market
103	Meyer Furniture	Standard Oil Stn.	Maxwell & Fee Feeds
105	Meyer Furniture	Standard Oil Stn.	Craun Pie Fly Killer
107	Meyer Furniture	Standard Oil Stn.	Seth Aldrich Tin Shop
111	Engineered Materials	Marshall Clothing	Olds Ford Garage
115	Engineered Materials	Marshall Clothing	Bracy Ford Garage Janke Filling Station
211	Butler Quick Mart	Blue Sunoco Stn.	Wilson Sunoco Stn.
519	Residence	Baldwin Machine Shop	

Location Present		20 to 50 years ago	Over 50 years ago
533	Residence		Brecbill Dairy
601	Residence	Jones Signs	Jones Signs
605	Davis Telephone Service	Wann Cabins	Wann Cabins
	T-Birds Restaurant	Filling Stn.	Capp Farm
685	Evans Equipment	Miles Homes	Capp Farm
East Main Street South Side			
106		Restaurant	Barber Shop
108	Butler Bulletin	Record Herald	Mutzfeld Harness Shop
110	Residence	Walker Beauty Shop	Walker Beauty Shop
112	Residence	Walker Studio	Walker Studio
400	N. Shultz Beauty Shop	Residence	Residence
634	Butler Bowl	Butler Bowl	Vacant Lot
	Laub Bros. Oil Co.	Laub Bros. Oil Co.	Laub Bros. Oil Co.
		Pugsley Cabins	Pugsley Cabins
West Main Street North Side			
101	Vacant	Parker Insurance	First National Bank
		Brant Insurance	
105	Auto License Branch	Restaurant	C. J. Maxton
115	Maxton Motors	Maxton Motors	Dr. Wolf Dentist
121		Residence	Beard Eggs & Cheese
133	Butler Car Care	Marathon Station	Residence
321	Butler Shell Service	Butler Shell Service	Vacant Lot
329	The Party Shop	Residence	Residence
335	Winn Barber Shop	Winn Barber Shop	Vacant Lot
349	Family Dollar	Sutton Super Market	Vacant Lot
		Harolds Grocery	
443	S & J. Dari Treet	Dari Treet	Filling Station
			Basket Factory
503	The Coffee Cup	Scotties Station	Farm
517	Butler Automotive	Laub Auto Parts	Farm
	Kaiser's Super Market	Kaiser Super Market	Farm
529	Hook's Drugs	Farm	Farm
Basket Factory Road North			
	Mansfield Auction	Ready Equipment	
	Shear Pleasure	Laundromat	Titan Electric Co.
	Kitchen Auto Body Spec.	Car Wash	Kepler Turkey Hatchery
	Tule's Service Center	Farm	Farm
West Main Street South Side			
110	Horseshoe Bar	Dari Store	Hiner Blacksmith
114	Maxton Motors	Maxton Motors	M. F. Long Garage
120	City Hall	City Hall	Water Works Pumps
			Electric Generating Plant
144	Yancy's Mini Mart	Rogers Mobil Stn.	Mobil Station
400	Lane Realty	Paul Lane, Inc.	Residence
422	Residence	Residence	Filling Station
		I & M. Office	Fisher Implement

Location Present	20 to 50 years ago	Over 50 years ago
East Green Street North Side		
111 M. J. Stark—Chiropractor		Residence
East Green Street South Side		
106 Dr. W. Hughes—Dentist	Dr. W. Hughes	Residence
West Green Street North Side		
101 Armstrong Residence	Dr. C. B. Hathaway MD	Dr. C. B. Hathaway MD
312 Armstrong Floral	Tombow Floral	Tombow Floral
East Oak Street North Side		
111 Residence	Dr. D. O. Miller	Dr. E. E. Frisbie
115 Residence	Residence	Dr. O. W. Hiner—Vet
East Oak Street South Side		
104 Wilmington Township	Johnson Furniture	Dentist
106	Johnson Furniture	Dr. C. B. Hathaway
110 Hendrickson Suspension	Commercial Shearing	Higley Printing Co.
West Oak Street North Side		
117 Maxton Motors	Bercaw Implement	Bercaw Implement Blair & Campbell Auto Laundry Tie Barn
127 Maxton Motors	Dr. C. I. Weirich	Dr. C. I. Weirich
West Oak Street South Side		
108 Higley Book Store	Higley Book Store	Higley Printing Co.
114 Gerald McNeerney Atty.	Fur Products	Madden Monument
116	Robbins Shoe Repair	Gingrich Shoe Repair
120 Baker Gun & Archery		
300 McEntarfer Beauty Shop	Dr. G. Balser—Vet.	Dr. E. V. Blume—Vet.
West Depot Street South Side		
120 City Storage	Farm Bureau Storage Carbola Co.	Mack Bicycle Shop Hotel
200 Evans Equipment	N.Y.C. Depot	N.Y.C. Depot
206 Service Steel Products	Butler Lumber Co.	Butler Lumber Co.
300	Wann Coal	Mondhank Coal Butler Milling Co.
	N.Y.C. Freight Office	N.Y.C. Freight Office
308	Warstler Barber Shop	

Auburn Concrete & Masonry

1623 S. Indiana Ave.

Auburn, IN

EVANS EQUIPMENT SALES & SERVICE, INC.

685 East Main Street



This view shows South Broadway, looking north from the Railroad Street intersection around 1921. (Photo contributed by Bob and Evelyn Ridge)

City Government and Services

By Jeff Jones and John Martin Smith

Butler was incorporated as a town in 1866 with W. P. Carpenter, J. A. Campbell, and Elihu Ocker as the first trustees, with A. A. Howard as Clerk and R. H. Weamer as Marshall.

Butler first became a city in 1903 and remained such until 1934 when the Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation which raised the population requirement for cities to a minimum of 3,000 residents. Butler did not meet this qualification and reverted to a town status.

In 1956 a special act of the Indiana General Assembly again permitted Butler to become a city, a status which it has held since. Those who have served as mayor are:

1903 - 1906	Sam G. Stone
1906 -	John Hiazelet
1906 - 1910	Wallace Webster
1910 - 1914	Walter J. Mondhank
1914 - 1918	Dr. A. J. Kramer
1918 - 1921	George L. Stone

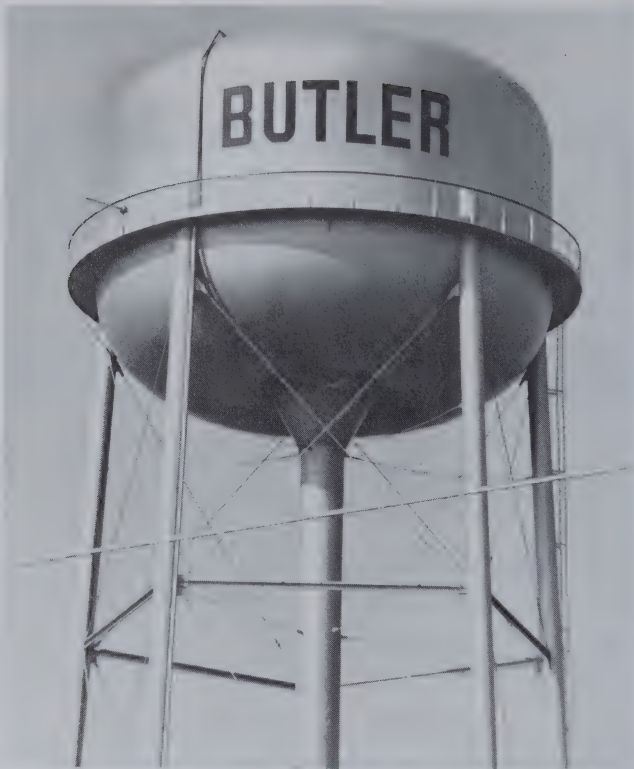
1921 - 1930	Leighton F. Tombow
1930 - 1934	Charles C. Cook
1956 - 1959	Leighton F. Tombow
1960 - 1970	Raymond McCann
1971 - 1972	Howard Freidenberger
1972 - 1974	Robert Jones
1974 - 1979	Joseph Baldwin
1980 - 1987	Guy Mausteller
1987 -	Jerry L. Markle

Butler's utility and service departments provide a broad range of functions from police and fire protection to supplying water to citizens and industries.

The Butler Department of Waterworks was created in January 1936, when it purchased the Indiana Waterworks Corporation, which had served the city until that time. The water department presently utilizes two wells to pump water throughout the system to over 900 customers. The two city wells can pump up to 1,600 gallons of water per minute.



Former Butler Mayors Joe Baldwin, left, and Guy Mausteller, right, with present Mayor Jerry Markle, center.



Butler's one and only water tower is a familiar sight to travelers who visit the city.

The city's water pressure is determined by the height of the water tower. The tower, located next to Hathaway Park on Willow Street, holds 300,000 gallons of water. The city maintains between 25 to 30 miles of water lines, which range in diameter from four to 12 inches.

Three city employees are assigned to the daily operations of the water system. Two wells feed into the treatment plant, where iron deposits are filtered from the water. From the filtering process, chlorine is added to kill any bacteria that might be present in the water. After the chlorine is added, the water is distributed through the lines to each household and business.

The city's street department was established in the 1800s with the basic

responsibility of maintaining Butler's streets. Today's street department is responsible for the approximate 16 miles of roadway in Butler. Maintenance projects are conducted each year to keep the streets in good condition.

Of the seven people employed by the city, three are assigned to the day-to-day upkeep of streets and equipment. The equipment includes a backhoe, dump trucks, pickup trucks, snow blades, and a street sweeping machine. All of the city's equipment is kept ready to go in the event of heavy snowfall or a water main break.

Dick Miller retired in 1987 after serving as superintendent for many of his 34 years with the city. Ted Miller was named city superintendent upon Miller's retirement.

In 1990, the city superintendent, clerk-treasurer, and water office were moved from city hall to the downtown area.

The DeKalb Emergency Medical Service was created July 1, 1975, to provide medical care throughout the county. Presently, the county maintains four units in different cities (one is a backup unit), including one in Butler.

Butler's EMS crew is trained in basic life support care and serves the eastern third of DeKalb County between County Road 47 and the Ohio State Line. Basic medical needs are handled by Butler's ambulance crew. EMS personnel receive at least 130 hours of training to achieve certification.

The ambulance is an integral part of health and medical care in the Butler area because the next closest

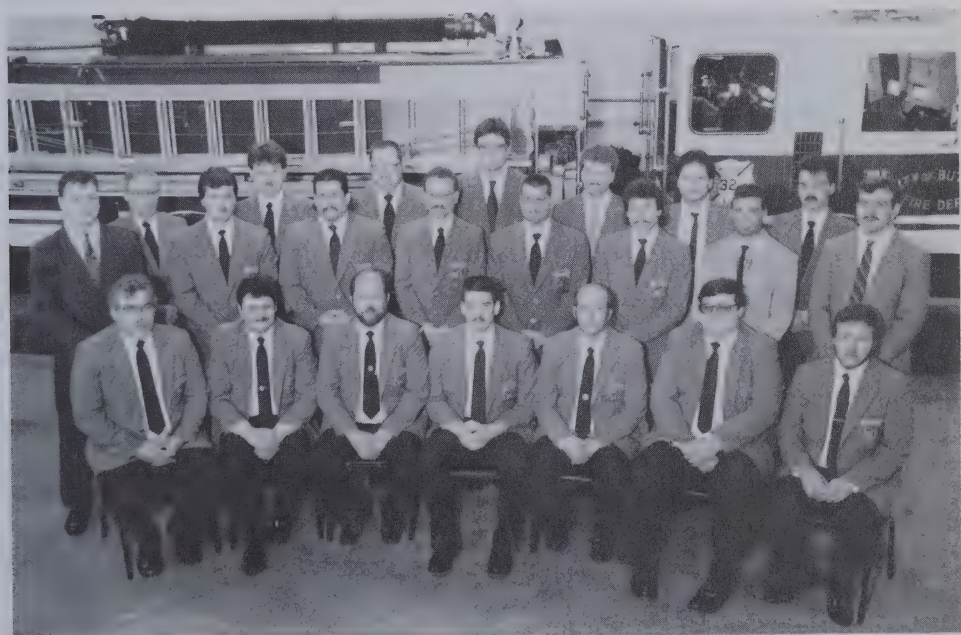
ambulance is over ten miles away. The Butler crew needs to arrive within four to six minutes of a call to provide care when it is needed most.

Butler's ambulance is equipped with bandaging supplies, oxygen equipment, spinal boards, splints, and collars to treat many types of injuries.

The EMS program was created with the assistance of funeral directors in the area who provided ambulance service prior to its formation. Health care in those days consisted mostly of loading a victim into the ambulance and rushing that person to the nearest hospital.

The Butler Fire Department was officially formed in 1896, but the city had a fire protection plan as early as 1870.

Today's firefighters receive 100 hours of training to achieve full-time status. Members must be at least 18



The Butler Fire Department is one of the best in the state. Seated in front, left to right, are Captain Ron Shultz, Assistant Chief Rick Husted, Second Lieutenant Dave Capp, Chief Mike VanZile, First Lieutenant Jon Wallace, Treasurer Gerald Sunken, and Secretary Rod Moore. In the middle row are Tim Maloney, Mike Hartman, Jeff Shultz, Brian Moore, Bruce Miller, Ron Mausteller, Gary Miller, and Brad Johnson. In the back row are Earl Shultz, Jeff Collingsworth, Mitch Beard, Lloyd Beard, Mark Cline, Jason Bowman, and Myles Gerardot. Darrin Dickerhoof is not shown.

years of age to join the department as reserves. Reserve firefighters are the first step below the full-time force, which usually consists of 20 members. As vacancies occur in the full-time force, primarily due to retirement of other members, one or more reserve members are elevated to full-time firefighting duties.

Butler requires that all full-time members live within 1,000 feet of the city limits. Butler's fire department serves the city and also answers calls in Wilmington, Franklin, Stafford, and Troy townships. That territory adds up to the largest in DeKalb County served by one department.

In 1990, the department received a new pumper truck to fight city fires. In 1982, the firefighters received a new truck to fight township fires. The department also has at its disposal five other trucks to handle many types of emergencies. A four-wheel drive

unit was donated to the city by a local industry for use in fighting grass fires. A rescue van carries equipment like air bottles, lights, extrication tools and generators. Two tanker trucks, which carry about 2,000 gallons of water each, are used to help fight rural fires where there are no hydrants available. Another vehicle is used to carry firefighters to and from emergency calls.

The present members serve as officers in the department: Mike Van-Zile, chief; Rick Husted, assistant chief; Ron Shultz, captain; Jon Wallace, first lieutenant; and Dave Capp, second lieutenant.

The Butler Police Department currently has six full-time officers who provide 24-hour protection and law enforcement seven days a week. Since the late 1800s, Butler has had law enforcement services in the community.



Fire equipment formerly used by the Butler Fire Department on display next to the old city hall. In the background is the support structure of the old water tower. (Photo contributed by the Butler Fire Department)



The Butler Police Department provides twenty-four hour a day law enforcement. Standing in front are Assistant Chief Jerry Ladd and Dave Davis. In the back row, from left to right, are Steve Reed, Mike Chambers, Art Levy, and Chief Mike Colgate.

The six full-time officers rotate through eight-hour shifts. In recent years, the purchase of new radio equipment and a computer has enhanced the department's ability to fight crime. In 1991, the department expanded to occupy space formerly used by the city superintendent, clerk-treasurer, and water office at city hall.

The Butler Police Department enforces traffic laws, city ordinances, and Indiana state laws, provides security for businesses and homes, and performs criminal and traffic investigations.

Mike Colgate is the present police chief in Butler. Jerry Ladd is assistant chief. Dave Davis, Art Levy, Mike Chambers, and Steve Reed complete the full-time roster of police officers. A reserve police force is also available to protect and serve the public.

Kandel

David V. Kandel
Agent

124 S. Broadway Bus. (219) 868-2680
Butler, IN 46721 or (219) 868-2776

Insurance C.



n

C.



LAUB BROS. OIL CO., INC.

JOBBER OF SHELL PRODUCTS

BUS. PHONE: 219-868-2183
BUTLER, IND. 46721

Butler Fire Chiefs

Mort Brown	Chief from unknown year to 1925
Earl Greenwalt	Chief from 1926 to 1927
Seth Aldrich	Chief from 1928 to 1936
Earl Eakright	Chief from 1937 to 1951
Howard Freidenberger	Chief from 1952 to 1958
Bruce Blair	Chief from 1958 to 1961
Glen Knox	Chief from 1962 to 1968
Bert Gearhart	Chief from 1969 to 1974
Bob Ginder	Chief from 1975 to 1976
Larry Moore	Chief from 1977 to 1987
Francis Miller	Chief from 1988 to 1990
Mike VanZile	Chief from January 1, 1991 to present

The Butler Fire Department was formed in 1896. Any individual who served as fire chief before Mort Brown is unknown.



Butler's firefighting equipment enables the local department to serve the largest area in the county: the city and Wilmington, Franklin, Stafford, and Troy Townships.

A Stroll Through Butler City Parks

By Carolyn Ladd

In the early 1970s, Butler's park system consisted of four parks: Hathaway Park (Little League ball diamond) located on Willow Street near the Conrail Railroad Tracks, Mason Park (Kiddie Park) at Depot and Eastern streets, Walnut Street Park, and Maxton Park located at the northeast part of the city. A successful investigation to solicit federal and state funds to improve the current park facilities, resulted in the creation of the Butler Park Board. The park board members were: Wendell Cooper, Robert Kaiser, George Kandel, Alfred Sherer, V. M. Rinehart, and Reynold Johnson.

In 1973, a Butler City Park and Recreation Program was created by the park board with Kathie Swaim as

acting director. Swaim organized various activities to be held at the different parks. These activities included sports, arts and crafts, games, and special events such as a talent show and bicycle safety carnival. Later, movies were shown on Saturday mornings at the old gym. Special work projects were also begun by workers and volunteers. They cleaned up the creek bed at Maxton Park, dug a drainage ditch, and picked up glass at the old dump site at Federal and Walnut streets. Birch Bayh, Indiana's senator at the time, visited Butler to see the results of everyone's hard work.

It was also at this time, that recycling first started in Butler. A park board office was established in the old



Maxton's Park, located on East Green Street, is one of several fine parks that citizens make use of for a variety of activities. Other parks in the city are Susie Park, Dick Miller Park, C. B. Hathaway Memorial Park, Walnut Street Park, and Mason's Park.

Janke lumber yard building located across from the Butler Elementary School. Delbert and Bunny Jennings, Mary West, and others oversaw the recycling of glass and newspapers. They also operated an ongoing rummage sale to help raise money. This recycling program was a grassroots effort that was years ahead of current recycling projects.

The park board continued to expand its efforts when it named Worthy Ladd as the first park board supervisor. Ladd, along with workers and volunteers, went to work making improvements to the grounds and facilities at the various parks. Shelters were built, restrooms were installed, and general clean-up projects were completed.

In 1974, Pat Ralston became the first park board director. Gary Wasson followed him for a short time,

then Rudy Fabik took the position as director in 1975.

Fabik assisted others in developing a master plan for Butler which included ideas for storing city maps, meeting the needs of senior citizens, and implementing recreational programs. The plan also addressed the need for a day care facility and looked into the building of a community swimming pool.

With the emphasis on developing a better park system, a fifth park was added and was given the name, Susie Park. Susie Park became a reality when a bulldozer leveled the top of the old city dump at Federal and Walnut streets and efforts were made to clean-up the site. The Butler City Park Board was disbanded in July of 1978 because of a decrease in funding.

A very special addition to the Butler park system was made in the summer



The gazebo, a prominent feature of Dick Miller Park, was constructed by a group of Butler citizens at the southwest intersection of Main and Broadway.

of 1986 when the gazebo was built at the corner of Main and Broadway streets. Many Butler citizens, local businesses and industries provided the hard work and materials to make the gazebo a reality. The area in which the gazebo stands was named Dick Miller Park after the man who served as a dedicated city employee for 34 years.

Every Christmas, this small park becomes a magical wonderland as the

gazebo and surrounding landscape is decorated with lights, garlands, and ribbons.

Over the past 25 years, the Butler park system has grown to include six parks, each one unique in its own way. These parks continue to be a vital part of the Butler community where ballgames are played, family picnics are held, and just good old-fashioned fun can be enjoyed by young and old alike.

Roger & Judy Kitchen
Owners

KITCHEN AUTO BODY SPECIALISTS, Inc.

LEADER IN UNIBODY COLLISION REPAIR

2863 CR 61A
Butler, IN 46721
(219) 868-5817



Meadowhaven

Our Pledge To You!

NURSING
CENTER

Residents are honored and respected welcome guests, whose needs and wishes are of primary concern and with whom we interact with a positive and genuinely caring attitude.

We are your OWN Community Nursing Care Center . . . We are here to SERVE YOU.

An open invitation is extended to you to visit with us to see if we might be of help to you.

 **Meadowhaven Healthcare Center** 520 W. Liberty, Butler, Indiana • 868-2164



McNABB PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

WAYNE D. McNABB Owner
STATE LICENSED PLUMBER #PC81040388

6914 CR 30
BUTLER, IN 46721
(219) 868-2753

Gerald M. McNerney
Attorney at law
114 W. Oak
Butler, IN

Butler Day Care Center Looks to the Future

By Sheryl Prentice

The Butler Day Care Center began as an idea in Butler resident Rita Bailey's mind in 1984, when she had to turn down several requests for child care in her home. Bailey talked with other care providers and parents needing child care services, and realized the demand for babysitters far exceeded the supply.

Bailey gathered information about establishing and organizing a day care center, and contacted state agencies for regulations and licensing requirements. Several others joined in the planning, and the Butler Community Day Care Center was incorporated in 1985 with firm community support.

Eleven people formed the original board and raised about \$25,000 through drawings, door-to-door campaigns, and direct appeals to local businesses. Most of the necessary equipment was donated, and the board leased the classroom and stage areas in the old high school gym for the center. The day care center opened for business in 1987, with Susan Spangler as its first director.

Beth Shepherd became the second director, and continues to serve in

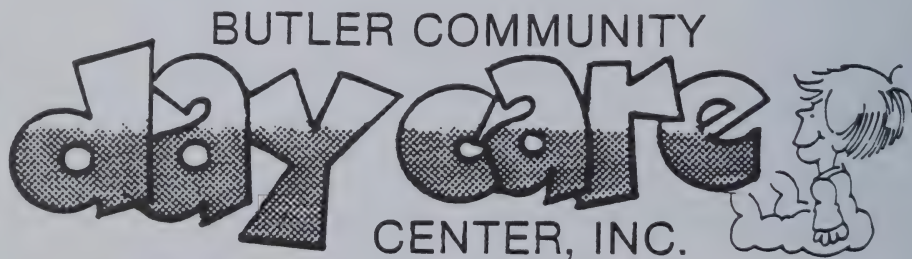
that capacity. Today the center serves about 75 children, ages 3-12, and children are escorted daily to the nearby elementary school.

The City of Butler applied for and received a Community Focus Fund grant of \$300,000 on October 20, 1990. The board is currently working on plans for a new facility, and hopes to expand services to include infant care, second-shift care, new programs, and senior citizen day care.

The Indiana Department of Commerce awarded the grant, based on the project's impact on the community, the presence of low and moderate income families, and local effort and readiness to complete the project.

The building is expected to be completed in 1992.

Current board members are President Rick Walters, Vice President Jim Burns, Treasurer Jody Pedersen, Secretary Ruth Brown, center director Beth Shepherd, and members Glenna Cairl, Charlotte Campbell, Donna Garman, Denise Haywood, Cindy Jennings, Darlene Diehl, Mike Mayer, Charlene Moore, and Catherine Newcomer.



Reading Plus!

By Carolyn Ladd

The Butler Carnegie Library was built in 1915 with the help of a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation, private donations, and support from surrounding townships. The building which houses the library has not grown in size since it was erected, but that has not kept the library from growing in other ways. The library has increased circulation, with a larger number of volumes available to the public and more services offered to patrons.

Twenty-five years ago, it was reported that the library had 10,862 volumes which included children and adult books, reference books, and encyclopedias. Since that time, the inventory has increased to over 23,000 volumes which now includes the addition of magazines, records, and paperback books.

The increase in the number of volumes has had a direct effect on circulation as the library today boasts of circulating approximately 54,000 volumes a year. The creation of a separate children's department has been a major factor in boosting circulation to such an impressive number.

At one time the children's department consisted of a few shelves in one corner of the library. This was to change in 1976 when a group of volunteers calling itself the Friends of the Library, was formed. Previous librarians had considered creating a children's department in the large room downstairs which had once been used for kindergarten classes before the Butler Elementary School was built, and now it was to become a reality.

To encourage children to use the



The Butler Carnegie Library, 201 East Main Street, observed its 75th anniversary in 1990.

new facility, special programs were created. Currently the library offers a preschool story time which includes visits from the Butler Community Day Care children, an after-school fun time, and a popular summer reading program that has had as many as 250 children enrolled at one time.

As a sign of the times, the children's department has seen the addition of a personal computer, video cassette recorder (VCR), and a television. Not wanting to overlook the needs of other patrons, the library has made large print books available to those who cannot read fine print, and delivers books to residents of Meadowhaven Healthcare Center.

Time began to take its toll on the aging building as the library began to experience major problems with the old converted furnace, water leaking through the roof, and a chimney that was deteriorating. With the help of a loan and contributions from the public, a new furnace and air conditioning were installed, the roof and chimney

were repaired, blinds were hung at the windows, and a new floor was laid. It was also decided to turn one of the rooms downstairs into a conference room for board meetings by adding cabinets and a fresh coat of paint.

In the mid 1980s, a major project of re-cataloging the library and updating the card catalogue was completed. The library also joined Tri-Alsa, a professional organization for libraries that helps with legal advice, reciprocal borrowing, and staff development.

The following people have served as librarians: Lottie Brundage, Thomas Rudd, Nora Rudd(22 years), Mrs. Albert Berg, Mrs. Paul Harding, Romaine Korsmeyer (24 years), Sue Ray, Doris Hoffer, Majorie Nairn, and the present librarian, Alice Baldwin.

The current library board members are: James Pappas, president; Nancy Blaker, vice president; Janet Everhart, secretary; Pat Kneip, treasurer, and members Bertha Fetter, John Scoville, and Rita Bailey.



Butler High School is a memory today. This view shows how the school, which was located at East Washington Street, between Canal and Ash streets, around 1915. (Photo contributed by Bob and Evelyn Ridge)

Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic— Butler Schools

By Jeff Jones

The DeKalb Eastern Community School District was born with the consolidation of Butler and Riverdale high schools. The announcement was made in March 1963 that the two schools would become one, beginning in the fall of 1963. The high school became known as Eastside Junior-Senior High School.

For the first eight years of operation, the students of the new school met for classes at the Butler High School building. In 1971, a new high school structure was completed on East Green Street. Today, the building is home to students in grades seven through 12.

Eastside's new building was originally constructed in a campus style,

with its five buildings separated by one another by sidewalk. In 1981, a project was completed to connect the five buildings. The project also included the construction of six new classrooms while the industrial arts rooms and the library were remodeled.

From the fall of 1986 to the end of the 1989 school year, sixth grade students from Butler and Riverdale elementary schools attended Eastside because of overcrowded conditions, where they were able to participate in special programs that were offered to junior high students. The addition of new classrooms at the two elementary buildings enabled the sixth grade students to return by the start of the 1989-90 school year.



Butler Elementary School, home for grades K-6, 603 East Green Street.

A project at Eastside that was finished prior to the start of the 1990-91 school year included six new classrooms, two shop rooms, and an auxiliary gymnasium which brought Eastside to its present site of 188,000 square feet. The school grounds were complete with facilities for several athletic teams, a maintenance building for buses and equipment, and shop rooms for agriculture and diesel mechanics courses.

In order to earn a diploma from Eastside, students are required to earn a total of 42 credits. Of that total, 22 credits are accumulated through required courses of study. All students must complete eight English credits, two in U.S. History, one in government, one in economics or current issues, four in mathematics, four in science (two in physical science and two in life science), and two credits in physical education and health.

Students are also required to com-

plete 20 credits in elective credits of their choice in college preparatory, business, general, vocational agriculture, and others. Electives are offered in many different fields, including art, drawing, painting, accounting, typing, shorthand, journalism, poetry, speech, drafting, diesel mechanics, photography, foreign language (French or Spanish), algebra, geometry, calculus, computer math, child development, foods, clothing, choir, music, history, human sexuality, substance abuse, chemistry, biology, zoology, geography, psychology, world history, animal care, forestry, and exploratory teaching. These are just a few of the curricular offerings that are available to Eastside students.

Since the 1987-88 school year, students have been required to compile 42 credits for graduation. Prior to that time, graduates needed to receive 34 credits. With the move to a seven-period school day (up from a six-



Eastside Junior-Senior High School, home for grades 7-12, 603 East Green Street.

period day) in the 1984-85 year, the new graduation requirements went into effect with that year's freshman class.

High school seniors who have completed 47 or more credits and achieve at least a "C" average or better can be presented with an Academic Honors Diploma from the school.

Ernest Zeller was the first superintendent of the DeKalb Eastern School District. Mr. Zeller served as superintendent of the Butler schools from 1952 and presided over the new consolidation until April 1966.

Kenneth Cole became the second superintendent of the school district and served until his death in 1978. Cole had announced his intent to retire in July 1979, and in preparation, the school board hired Robert Howe to become acclimated to the position. With Cole's unexpected death, Howe was unable to assume full-time superintendent duties at DeKalb Eastern and resigned in August 1978.

Dr. Charles Hampel, who had taught and served as an administrator in the system, was named superintendent about a week after Howe's resignation, and continues in that capacity today.

Not many people are aware that Eastside and the athletic nickname "Blazers" were not the only names considered for the new high school.

The student councils at Butler and Riverdale high schools combined to select the new high school's name, a nickname for its athletic teams, and the school colors. From choices such as "Eastwood," "Northeastern," and "Butler," another, namely "Eastside," was chosen as the new high school's name. While "Blazers" was the selected nickname, others considered were "Trojans," "Spartans," and "Bearcats."

Green and white were chosen as the colors for the new school.

The fledgling school consolidation was not without its problems. For several months, a group of patrons from the southern portion of the district urged the DeKalb Eastern system to consolidate with neighboring DeKalb Central on the platform that a new high school building was not needed. The new school's location was also controversial. Some patrons felt the new high school should be more centrally located, but the board decided on the Butler location.

In the mid-1970s, a contract dispute between the school board and teachers were featured in the headlines of area newspapers. In February 1977, the school board approved a seven-point proposal that featured such items as spending cuts, the elimination of two teaching positions, and requiring teachers to do their own clerical work. Three teachers filed grievances against the board. In June 1977, two of the teachers dropped their grievances and were reinstated to their positions. The third teacher was not signed to a new contract.

In January 1985, the school board began studying a proposal to build a middle school onto the high school building. The middle school idea was designed to decrease student-teacher ratios and provide separation from older students. In April of that year, the board voted against the proposal, with many school patrons voicing their opinions against the middle school option.

In March 1988, the board approved a controversial \$4 million expansion project to Butler Elementary and Eastside High School.

Butler Elementary was constructed in 1954 at the corner of Green and

Beech streets. Since its construction, the school has received five additions that have brought it to its present 42,500 square foot size.

Riverdale Elementary is located in St. Joe on State Road 1 at County Road 60. It was completed in 1961, and has received several additions that have made its present size of 30,000 square feet.

At one time, East Green Street,

between Beech and Maple streets, was void of school buildings and children. Many of today's leaders were educated in the DeKalb Eastern system, and tomorrow's leaders are there now. Those leaders will learn to deal with society, problem-solving, and many other obstacles. It is in the school system where they receive the basic tools that will remain with them the remainder of their lives.

S&J's
Dari Treet
Basket Factory Road
Butler, Indiana
Phone 868-2736



RODS INDIANA, INC.
Manufacturers of Threaded Parts

6282 US6
Butler, Indiana 46721
219-868-2172

Hoops, Mats, Diamonds, and Gridirons

By Jeff Jones

Butler and now Eastside athletes have excelled in a wide variety of sports through the years. Activities such as cross country, track, basketball, football, and softball have produced outstanding teams and individual players who rate with the best in the area.

Baseball has been a strong team sport throughout Butler's history. As early as the 1920s, the city was home to Wabash Park, located between South Broadway and the Norfolk Southern (formerly Wabash) Railroad. This facility was complete with a fenced-in field and grandstand. By 1946, a summer program started for high school age boys, which was part of the National American Legion youth program.

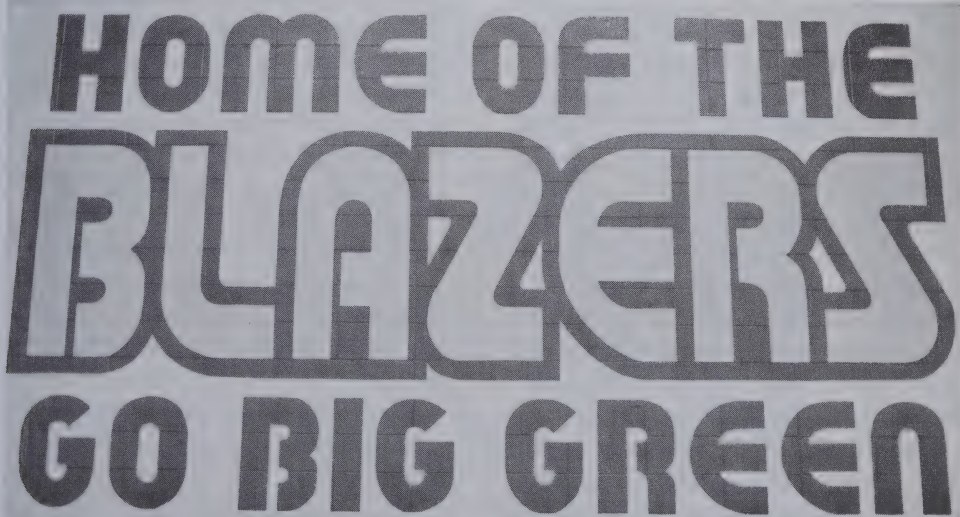
The Butler Youth League includes T-ball and baseball leagues with games each summer. Approximately 200 youngsters between the ages of six

and 12 participate each year. The league plays many of its games at C. B. Hathaway Memorial Park located on Willow Street. Each year the league hosts all-star tournaments that feature some of the area's best teams.

At the high school level, Eastside has produced some outstanding players and teams almost like clockwork. In the summer of 1963, the Blazer squad won 20 straight ballgames. By 1970 games were played in the spring, with similar results.

Some of the better pitchers, including Aaron Willard, Matt Harris, and Jamison Nuttle, kept the tradition alive into the 1980s and early 1990s. The varsity team has not experienced a losing season since 1978. Three teams have topped the 20 win plateau in that span including the 1986 and 1990 teams which won 22 games each.

The football field, particularly in



HOME OF THE
BLAZERS
GO BIG GREEN

The north wall of the Eastside High School gymnasium leaves no doubt as to where you are.



C. B. Hathaway Memorial Park, located on West Willow Street, is home to Butler Youth League baseball.

recent years, has become a viable part of the Eastside athletic program, featuring some of the best teams in this corner of the state. Football was played at Butler in the 1900s, but did not catch on like other sports. Eastside began its football program in 1965, and by 1974, its first powerhouse team was born, winning eight of nine games that year. Since that time, the school has won conference titles in 1988, 1989, and 1990. The last two years included unbeaten regular seasons.

The Eastside Little League Football program was born in 1970 and features four teams of boys ages eight through 12 today. About 80 to 100 boys participate in the program each year and receive their first exposure to organized football.

Basketball has been a big program for both boys and girls teams at Eastside. In the beginning, Butler High School girls had to fix up an aban-

doned church to play its games, but they now share a modern facility with the boys at the high school.

Butler's only boys sectional title came in 1942, and Eastside's team cut down the nets with another crown in 1966. Since then, the boys team has only been able to finish as runners-up on several occasions. Standout players like Craig Lake and Charlie Ross, who rank one-two in the boys all-time scoring, plus many others have led the Blazer teams to big victories.

The girls program grabbed three straight sectional titles from 1977 to 1979 behind sharpshooters like Lisa Johnson and Amy Hampel. In 1979, the Lady Blazers became the first to represent the school at the semi-state level.

Track and cross country have been featured sports at Eastside almost since its formation. Cross country, in which runners race three miles or more for the best time, has been the

sport for top-notch athletes like "Butch" McBride, Don Drake, and Bruce Carpenter. Both Carpenter and Drake appeared in state cross country meets, earning all-state honors for top 25 finishes. Carpenter holds the school record with a time of 15:46.

Butler's Lewis Blanchard won the state title in the mile race with a time of 4:34 in 1945. Joe Camp and Brian Carpenter made the state meet in the 400 meter run (about one-fourth of a mile) in 1984 and 1988, respectively. Bruce Carpenter was the first Eastside athlete to participate in a state meet in two different sports, cross country and track.

Although girls athletic programs weren't officially recognized by the state of Indiana's governing body until mid-1970s, the 1971 and 1972 track teams were strong nevertheless. Each year the Lady Blazers reached the state meet, including a school-best third place finish in 1972. Vickie Baker won a state title in 1971 in the 220 yard dash. Jane Hollabaugh qualified for the state meet in 1983 in the 800 meter run (the modern equivalent to a half-mile), while Dana Blaker won a sectional high jump title and qualified for the state meet in 1987. That same year the girls squad won a team conference title.

Wrestling and softball are two of the newer sports at Eastside, and both have achieved tremendous success in recent years.

Wrestling features two opponents who compete against one another for a six-minute time period for the most individual points or until one participant is defeated. Loren Johnson, the school's all-time leader in individual victories, won four sectional titles and qualified for the semi-state meet each year from 1985 to 1988. Since that time, four wrestlers, Brian Minnick,

Chad Parrish, Todd Mason, and Troy Norton, have competed at the state level.

Softball became a high school sport in the late 1980s, but it has been enjoyed for years by industrial and church leagues in the area. In 1990, Eastside's varsity girls team won a school-record 13 games and defeated a state-ranked team twice in the season. The Lady Blazers finished the season as conference tournament champions and sectional runners-up.

At the younger age level, approximately 60 to 70 girls participated in the Butler Girls Softball League. The league plays its games at Wendell Cooper Park in Maxton's Park.

Golf and bowling continue as two popular activities in the Butler area.

Two local golf events are held each year, one in the summer and one in the fall. The Butler Open has been held since 1953 and the Butler Golf Outing has been held since 1981. Eastside had golf as a varsity sport until the end of the 1979-80 school year. It has recently been reinstated at the junior high level and will resume at the varsity level in the coming years.

Bowling has long been a popular weeknight activity in Butler. The Butler Bowl, located at the east end of the city, was built in 1962 and is the present home for many bowlers. Leagues are held several nights a week with many local and area residents participating. Men, women, and children also enjoy the sport on a recreational level.

While cheerleading is not considered a high school sport, the accomplishments of Eastside's talented squads cannot be overlooked. Year in and year out, the school produces squads that are exciting to watch as they develop and perfect new ways of

showing school spirit. Three times, the varsity cheerleading squad has enjoyed the opportunity to perform in national competitions in Dallas, Texas. In the 1982-83 school year, Eastside's squad placed sixth in its class at national competition.

The high school's athletic heritage has grown increasingly rich and storied as the years have passed. While not all of the athletes featured in this story are from Butler, their achievements warrant mention because they represented the local school.



Interstate Farm Equipment, Inc.

St Rd 4
Ashley, IN



RECONTEK

A PS Group Company

*PROVIDING FOR THE
INDUSTRIES OF TODAY
WHILE PROTECTING THE
ENVIRONMENT FOR TOMORROW*

Manufacturing

By Jeff Jones

Like many communities in north-east Indiana, the City of Butler has experienced periods of economic growth and recession. The period from 1950 to the early 1960s marked Butler's largest expansion since the railroads came to the city. Over the years, companies have come and gone. Butler has remained attractive to industry because of two major highways that pass through the city, its close proximity to an interstate highway, and its access to two railroad lines.

Some of the men who were responsible for Butler's expansion in the 1950s and 1960s were C. J. Maxton, Fred Laub, Otis Fisher, Frank Korsmeyer, and Herman Stegman.

As the years have passed, some industries and service companies have re-located from Butler. Major fires have played a role in at least two businesses leaving the city. The DeKalb Farm Bureau Cooperative was destroyed by fire in 1966, just a few weeks after the city's 125th birthday celebration. That building was among several in the area destroyed by suspicious blazes. In September 1982, Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals, Inc., was the victim of one of Butler's most spectacular fires. Many of today's firefighters and recent retirees will attest to the intensity of the Kaiser Ag fire which involved many surrounding fire departments.

Other businesses which have been in Butler and have since closed are: Commercial Shearing, Inc., Morenci Company, Inc., Miles Homes, Inc., Imperial Tube Corporation, Dowley Drop Forge, Inc., Crane Edmund Corporation, Indiana and Michigan

Electric Company, and the Hawthorne Melody Condensery.

Each industry presently located in Butler is featured in the following paragraphs.

ABROS, INC., is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Art Iron, Inc., which was founded in 1905 by Godfrey Schlatter. Abros came to Butler in 1983 and occupies an 18,000-square-foot facility at 800 South Broadway.

Abros, Inc., is a custom metal fabricator, with many of its products used in the construction industry. Abros is one of the largest producers of custom steel stairs and railings in Indiana. The Butler facility employs 18 people.

BOHN ALUMINUM CORP. was purchased from the Wickes Manufacturing Company February 1, 1991. Charles B. Bohn formed the company in the early 1920's and the local plant was established in 1957.

Bohn employs 160 people in its 125,000-square-foot building. The company makes castings that are used in heavy-duty diesel engines, automotive engines, drive train, and military vehicles. Bohn's Butler plant is located at 6378 U.S. 6 West. At one time, the company's principal product was aluminum billets, but the present materials produced included flywheel housings, oil pans, blower housings, and front engine covers.

BRYAN TRUCK LINE INC., was founded in 1948 by Harold Dean and located in Butler in January 1986. The company employs 25 people at its Butler facility.

Bryan Truck Line is an intra- and interstate common and contract general commodities carrier. The Butler

location is an 8,000-square-foot building at 315 South Federal Street. Since coming to Butler, 15 new employees and 10 pieces of equipment have been added.

THE BUTLER COMPANY, INC., was established in 1888 in the office of E. W. Foswick as The Butler Manufacturing Company by 36 men. In 1894, the company was incorporated and renamed The Butler Company.

At different times, the company manufactured bicycles, windmills, pumps, buggies, and watering containers. A major fire in 1958 ended much of The Butler Company's manufacturing efforts.

Sondra Phillips became The Butler Company's president in January 1988, and Eric Pedersen became manager. Today the business employs 18 people and the company's three buildings cover 27,000 square feet at 325 South Broadway. The company is a distributor of plumbing, electrical, and heating-cooling products.

CASEBERE SURGE SERVICE has been in existence since January 1966, when it was founded by Raymond Casebere and son Gene. Gene is now the sole owner and operator of the business.

Casebere Surge Service, located at 210 South Ash Street, sells sanitation products and equipment to dairy farmers. The business serves DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, and Steuben counties.

DEKALB MOLDED PLASTICS COMPANY is a division of the JSJ Corporation. The company, located at the intersection of U.S. 6 and County Road 63, came to Butler in October 1978. The company was originally a spin-off of Michigan Plastic Products of Grand Haven, Michigan.

DeKalb Molded Plastics makes thermal moldings in mult-nozzle

equipment, plus services of decorating, shielding, and assembly for the electronic, television, office, and appliance markets.

The company employs 105 people at its 80,000-square-foot building, with annual sales exceeding one million dollars.

EVANS EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC., and **EVANS EQUIPMENT SALES AND SERVICE, INC.**, were founded by Elbert and Helen Evans at the intersection of Depot Street and Eastern Avenue in Butler in 1981.

Evans Equipment Company employs 15 people, while Evans Equipment Sales and Service has seven full-time and four part-time employees. Evans Equipment Company is a trucking contract carrier and hauls general commodities to 48 states. Evans Equipment Sales and Service is a parts, service, and repair business, which caters to diesel semi-trucks and trailers.

The two businesses are established in a 40' x 70' building and a 22' x 14' office at 200 West Depot Street.

Evans Equipment started as a small garage operation in 1981 repairing local owner-operators' equipment. In May 1985, the business became two separate corporations, and the sales and service division now performs repairs and maintenance on over 350 pieces of equipment.

In 1991, the business will relocate to a larger facility at the east end of Butler to offer expanded services to its customers.

HENDRICKSON SUSPENSION, A BOLER COMPANY, was founded by Magnus Hendrickson in 1913 and came to Butler in 1953. The business, located at 200 West Cherry Street, employs 200 people at its 60,000-square-foot building.

Hendrickson Suspension manufac-

tures truck suspensions and components. The company has assisted several different automotive manufacturers in its history, including International Harvester, Ford, and GMC.

In 1978, the company was purchased by John Boler. Since locating in Butler, Hendrickson Suspension has donated eight acres of land to the city.

LAUB BROS. OIL CO., INC., was established in September 1939 by Fred and Bea Laub and Ray and Mable Laub upon moving to Butler. The business now owns six service stations and convenience stores in the area, employing 46 people.

Gary Laub joined the company in 1967 when Ray retired and became president in 1979 upon Fred's retirement. Gary's son, Doug, joined the business in 1988.

Laub Oil Company supplies petroleum products, heating oil, commercial lubricants, convenience store products, customer service, and gasoline in its operation.

LOMAR INDUSTRIES, INC., was formed by Ross Nielsen in 1967, and moved to Butler in June 1990. The company employs eight people at its 15,000-square-foot plant located at 221 West Cherry Street.

Lomar manufactures hardwood decorative switch plates, plaques, and kitchen and bathroom components. The company also offers offset printing services.

MOLD SERVICE, INC., was established in Butler January 2, 1961 by Duane Getzfeld and Thomas Barry. The company began as a mold repair shop and is located at the intersection of U.S. 6 and County Road 59 west of Butler.

Mold Service employs 10 people and occupies a 7,200-square-foot building after starting out in rented quar-

ters. The company owns the property at its present location and is locally-owned.

The company designs and builds special purpose machines, builds molds, dies, and fixtures while offering machine shop services.

PENT STAFFORD PRODUCTS is a division of Group Dekko International, Inc. The company was purchased by Group Dekko in 1962 and operates two facilities at 2700 County Road 75 east of Butler.

The buildings, one 30,000 square feet and the other 32,500 square feet, were first used in January and August 1987, respectively. Plant 1 employs 36 people and Plant 2 employs 30 people. Each building manufactures electrical systems for the modular furniture industry.

RODS, INDIANA, INC., was established by Homer Dickerhoof in April 1964. The company was originally in business at 221 West Cherry Street.

In 1988, Dan Dickerhoof became owner and president of the company. That year a new location was established at 6282 U.S. 6 West. Rods first home was outgrown after 24 years. The new building is 28,000 square feet.

Rods employs 12 people and manufactures steel fasteners, including anchor bolts, U-bolts, studs, and linkage rods for construction companies, the automotive industry, and other manufacturers.

SEBERT OIL CO., INC., was formed in July 1975 by Dwight L. Sebert, son Michael, and Richard Everhart. Dwight served as an agent for the Standard Oil Company from 1847 to 1975. Sebert Oil Company employs seven people.

Sebert Oil Company provides gasoline, engine oil, diesel fuels, indus-

trial oil, and heating oils while making deliveries to farms, homes, and industries. The business is located at 501 South Broadway and owns several service stations and convenience stores in the area.

THERMA-TRU CORP., was established by David K. Welles in 1962 and the Butler molding and stamping facility was completed in August 1985. A total of 179 people are employed at the Butler facility.

Therma-Tru manufactures insulated door entry systems which are engineered so each component, including the door, function with the others to provide quality, performance, and energy efficiency.

The facility, located at 108 Mutzfeld Road, is 192,000 square feet in size. In 1989, a 125,000-square-foot addition was completed which houses the company's door assembly plant.

TRI-WALL, A WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY, was founded in 1953 by Merit Container and came to Butler in 1967. The company employs 132 people in its 137,000-square-foot building located at 2626 County Road 71.

Tri-Wall manufactures triple-wall corrugated containers used for heavy-duty packaging. The containers are used to pack such products as office furniture, automotive parts and assemblies, chemical resins, electronic equipment, and rubber and plastics.

Tri-Wall experienced a major expansion in 1969 when its original 32,000-square-foot building was enlarged to 100,000. In the 1970s the structure was enlarged to its present size. The company serves a 25-state area, as well as Canada and Mexico. The company also has other facilities in the United States, as well as the United Kingdom, Japan, and Israel.



THE KNISELY NATIONAL BANK

200 S. Broadway • Butler, IN 46721

Phone: 219-868-2177

UNIVERSAL TOOL & STAMP-
ING COMPANY, INC., was founded
in Spencerville January 25, 1946 by
R. B. Pratt. The company relocated
to Butler in 1952 under the ownership
of the Mayer family.

Universal manufactures jacks for
the automotive industry, including
cars and trucks, employing 400 peo-
ple at its approximately 300,000-
square-foot plant. The plant is located
at the corner of U.S. 6 and Commerce
Street.

Through the years, seven additions

have been made to the original plant,
bringing it to its present size. In May
1987, Universal was acquired by Acme
Steel of Riverdale, Illinois.

Two other industries are also pres-
ently located in Butler, but no infor-
mation was available regarding their
operations. Butler Drop Forge is
located at 100 R. E. Jones Road.
Engineered Materials, Inc., is located
at 101 North Pearl Street.



**Hoham, Smith &
Co., Inc.**
Wholesale Distributor
Box 710
Auburn, IN 46706

**North American
Seeds**
Turf & Forage
Seeds
Specialty Feed
Ingredients
&
Supplies

**NORTH
AMERICAN
GREEN**
Erosion
Control
Blankets
&
Consulting

J.D. Smith
(219) 925-3400
President - General Manager



MOORE'S
Pizza

Eat Here or Carry Out

James Moore
219-868-2861

127 South Broadway
Butler, IN 46721

THERMA-TRU®

*MAKING DOORS THAT LAST,
MADE US FIRST.*

Working Together

By Sheryl Prentice

Fraternal Order of Eagles

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 2733 was organized Nov. 14, 1947 by Andrew Konger, and received its charter in the council room of the Old City Hall. L. W. Bercaw served as the first president, with 102 charter members. Five charter members remain in the lodge.

The lodge supports 4-H, Little League baseball and football in the DeKalb Eastern School District, county-wide fund drives, and the Butler Fire Department's Halloween party. Members present a scholarship through the Eastside Community Foundation. Heart and cancer research are national programs.

Meetings are the first and third Wednesdays each month. Officers are Past President Joe Burnett, President Ron Ladd, Vice President Bob Marr,

Secretary Ned Beerbower, and Trustees Elbert Evans, Francis Miller, and Bill Howe.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary No. 2733 was founded May 27, 1949 with 60 members and Berniece Read as its first president. The lodge donates money every year to the American Cancer Society and the Jimmy Durante Children's Fund, and participates in the fight against child abuse.

Meetings are the first and third Tuesdays each month, with a district meeting every fourth Thursday. The six areas, Butler, Garrett, Albion, Ligonier, LaGrange, and Kendallville, rotate the site for meetings. The Butler lodge has three district officers.

Margaret Mangus is the current president. Other officers are Janine



A group of Butler residents gather at the gazebo in Dick Miller Park. Seated from left to right are Beulah Billings, Bessie Bacon, Laura Hiatt, Helen Sicard, and Mae Frakes. Standing from left to right are Carl Bryant, Paul Mutzfeld, Joe Baldwin, Blaine Rex, and Wilbur Diehl.



Some Butler couples relax and enjoy the view at the gazebo. Seated from left to right are Pauline Eck, Cleo Johnson, Irene Nelson, Ethel Barnes, and Pauline Blair. Standing from left to right are Roy Eck, Wilbur Johnson, Francis Nelson, W. J. Barnes, and Bruce Blair.

Ladd, vice president; Mary Christlieb, past president; Pat Hendrickson, chaplain; Hazel Coats, secretary; Gloria Howe, treasurer; Ella Stuller, conductress; and Helen Evans, trustee.

Ener-Jet Homemakers

The Ener-Jet Extension Homemakers Club was organized in October 1953, when 10 women met in Wilma Hoffer's home.

Charter members were Elizabeth Bryant (president), Florence Berndt (vice president), Elizabeth Houser, Patricia Dirr, Wilma Hoffer, Mareta Mutzfeld (treasurer), Joan Yates, Janet Campbell (secretary), Maxine Houser, and Kathryn Meyer. Campbell wrote the club slogan and song.

The club has had many fundraising projects, including a successful soft drink stand during Butler Days.

The group has donated to the Tuberculosis Association, American

Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Spanish Club, International Youth Exchange, the Bloodmobile, 4-H clubs, and the Butler Carnegie Library. Members have also contributed to the park shelterhouse construction, purchased play equipment for Mason's Park on Depot Street, gave to the fire department school to buy eyeglasses, purchased a Santa costume for a nursing home, and sponsored Miss Butler Days contestants.

The club has also organized trips to Chicago, Dearborn and Greenfield Village, South Port in Toledo, Ohio, the Dunkirk Glass Festival, Spangler's and Ohio Art in Bryan, Ohio, Amish Acres, and Bear Creek Farms.

The club meets the third Thursday each month for lessons and to hear speakers. Current officers are President Leona Miller, Vice-President Sally Johnson, Second Vice-President,

Marge Anderson, Secretary Marcline Davice, Treasurer Joan Bonecutter. Membership is 13 women with one charter member, Mareta Mutzfeld, still in the club.

The name changed from "Home Demonstration Club" to "Extension Homemakers Club" in 1967.

Butler Rotary Club

The Butler Rotary Club was founded Feb. 24, 1938, with C. J. Maxton as its first president. Other founding officers were Vice President John Paul Price, Secretary R. Burdette Powers, Treasurer Otis Fisher, and Sergeant-at-Arms Earl Brant.

Charter members were L. C. "Red" Bercaw, Earl "Shorty" Brant, Edward "Ed" Campbell, C. C. "Chas" Cook, Otis "Fish" Fisher, Lyston C. "L. C." Harding, Clayton B. "Doc" Hathaway, Dorsie Marshall, C. J. "C. J." Maxton, Alan Curtis "Curt" Miller, Cloyde Murray, Jesse "Jess" Oberlin, Roy Oberlin, R. Burdette "Art" Powers, John Price, Armand "Shorty" Sicard, Henry "Cap" Springer, Frank Stage, L. F. "Jake" Tombow, Charlie "Doc" Weirich, and Chester Wischmeier.

The club provides an annual \$500 scholarship for an Eastside High School graduate, and an annual scholarship for an Eastside student to study abroad for one year. The club hosts a foreign student at Eastside annually.

The club meets each Thursday at noon in Mom's Eaten' Haus in downtown Butler. Officers are President Eric Pedersen, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Haynes Jr., Youth Exchange Program Chairman Randy Bercaw, and Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Armstrong.

The most recent change for Rotary International and the Butler chapter

is the addition of women to the membership. Current membership includes two women, Cheryl Carnahan and Flena Rubalcaba.

Stafford Township Homemakers

The Stafford Township Home Demonstration Club was founded in 1926 by Ida Miller, Alma Diehl, Atlanta Cather, and Mildred Coll. Miller served as president of the 42-member club.

The club donates funds to WOWO Penny Pitch, supports mental health and cancer organizations, and sponsors a "friend-to-friend" patient at the Fort Wayne Developmental Center.

The club currently has 13 members, and meets the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Officers are President Nancy Hook, Vice President Ann Diederich, Secretary Alta Wann, and Treasurer Bertha Fetter.

Wilmington Township Homemakers

The Wilmington Township Extension Homemakers was organized in February 1926 under County Agent E. E. Stimson's direction in Mary Imhoff's home.

The club gives a college scholarship to a graduating student, promotes leader lessons, and participates in "Pennies For Friendship."

Sadie Krise served as county president in 1942-43 and as state president in 1947. Marcella Fuller was county president in 1972. Membership peaked at 40 in 1949.

The 15 current members meet once a month. Officers are President Donna Rosenberry, First Vice President Ruth Ann McNabb, Secretary-Treasurer Penny Howe, and assistant Evelyn Orewiler.

Forest Chapter No. 44

Order of the Eastern Star

The Forest Chapter No. 44 of the



The monument in the Butler Cemetery is dedicated to those who defended the nation.

Order of the Eastern Star was founded in March 1880. Charter members were Alice Stoy, Priscilla Johns, E. J. Otis, Rachel Olds, J. W. Boyle, _____ Carpenter, Alice Rank, Emma Crane, Annie T. Bolan, _____ Bennett, Ella Eley, Susan Moore, Eliza Blaker, C. S. Stoy, S. W. Otis, Jennie Wolf, Mary Rank, _____ Mason, C. W. Crane, and C. W. Eley.

The chapter sent fruit baskets to members, hosted holiday parties for children, and sent canned fruit to the Masonic Home. The club once paid the medical bills for a traveler who became ill while staying at the Butler Hotel. Other contributions went to the Red Cross for children in war-torn Europe, to Russiaville for tornado assistance, and to the living

memorial for deceased members located at the Indiana Masonic Home.

The Forest Chapter is one of the oldest in the state, and has instituted new chapters in Ashley, Garrett, Waterloo, North Manchester, and Columbia City.

Carrie Fanning of the Forest Chapter was appointed Worthy Grand Matron, Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer on the state level in 1887-88. Other Grand Chapter appointments have been Fred Fanning, Associate Grand and Worthy Patron; Jennie Wolf, Grand Marshall; Charlotte Campbell, Grand Adah; Ruth Michael, Ruth Baker, and Campbell as district deputies; and Michael, Alta Wann, and Audra Maxton as grand representatives.

Forest Lodge No. 239 F. & A.M.

The Forest Lodge No. 239 of Free and Accepted Masons was organized in Butler on April 23, 1858 by Hiram S. Madden. Members meet the first and third Thursdays each month and present membership is now 94.

Current officers are George Kandel, Worshipful Master; Mike Sebert, Senior Warden; and Charles Hampel, Junior Warden.

The lodge purchased 3 1/2 acres on Western Avenue and built the present building in 1974.

American Legion Post 202 Charles Foster Blaker Post

The American Legion, Charles Foster Blaker Post 202, Department of Indiana, was given a temporary charter Oct. 8, 1935, with a permanent charter later. Henry C. Springer served as the first post commander, with Cleland Croninger, Jasper Loomis, Gordon Collins, Otis Fisher,

Charles Phelps, Virgil Royer, Harry North, T. M. Long, Earl Eakright, Oscar Rhodes, Clayton Campbell, Roscoe Capp, Floyd Handy, and Ward Gunsenhauser.

The post annually awards scholarships to Eastside High School seniors, assists area charities, and sponsors the Boys State representative. The post also supports the 4-H auction, and conducts Memorial Day and Veterans Day service and activities. Members also provide facilities for the Red Cross Bloodmobile, and contribute visitation, entertainment and funds to the VA Hospital. They conduct memorial services for deceased members and school contests. Members also assist in emergency aid during disasters.

The post has meetings the first and third Friday nights of each month, and has a present membership of 340. Current officers are Marv Snyder, commander; Donald Dapp, first vice commander; Larry Holmes, second vice commander; Roger Cline, finance officer; Rick McCann, adjutant; Robert Shull, chaplain; and Elda Copley, sergeant-at-arms. The executive committee is Don Hook, past commander; Gerry Heyman, Robert Ginder, Ted Miller, and Keith Wilson.

The active auxiliary was founded Feb. 14, 1949 with Doris (Cook) Zimmerman as president, with 43 members.

Auxiliary members serve funeral dinners for veterans and their families, and sponsor bingo parties and Christmas gifts for the patients of the Fort Wayne VA Hospital. They give a \$300 scholarship each year to an Eastside graduate, and send a junior girl to Girls State.

The auxiliary meets once a month, and now has 135 members. Officers are President Wilma Fogelson, First

Vice President Kay McCann, Second Vice President Susie Freidenberger, Secretary Nancy Hook, Treasurer Irene Dielman, Chaplain Barb Lortie; Sergeant-at-Arms Mary Morrow, and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Pauline Burkmire.

The executive committee is Linda Evanoff, Lyndia Suntken, Shirley Holmes and Diane Treesh.

The Sons of the American Legion was organized in October 1987 by Gerald Suntken. The members care for the Christmas lights on the downtown Butler gazebo, and perform the same functions as the legion post.

The eight officers and 43 total members meet monthly.

Butler Lions Club

The Butler Lions Club was organized May 13, 1952. Melvin Jones founded Lions International in 1917.

Ray Bates served as the Butler Lions Club's first president, and James Hoffer as secretary. There were 15 charter members, of which the only one still active is Dwight Sebert.

The Lions Club conducts preschool hearing screenings, collects eye glasses for reuse, co-sponsors Halloween activities, and sponsors teachers for the Quest program. Members built the first shelterhouse in Maxton Park, and the first backstops, fence, and dugouts in Hathaway Memorial Park. They constructed play equipment for the Preschool for the Handicapped and the Butler Day Care Center, furnished lumber for park picnic tables, and maintain and paint the park bleachers. The club has also contributed to the Red Cross, Spanish Club, youth exchange to Japan, the DeKalb County Drug Task Force and DeKalb Memorial Hospital. The club also purchases 5-12 new pairs of glasses for children each year.

Members meet the second and fourth Monday nights each month, except in July and August. Everett Morris serves as president; with David Prosser, Randy Bungard and Richard Grogg as vice presidents; Gregory Hook as secretary; and Leon Strange as treasurer. The present membership is 18.

As of July 1, 1989, women were allowed to join the Lions Club as members, and their membership has grown in the past year.

Sigma Beta Sorority

The Sigma Beta Sorority Inc. was founded Jan. 5, 1923 in Fort Wayne by Sophia Maier Johnston. The Butler chapter, Alpha Omicron, was founded May 15, 1949 when nine charter members, Helen Houlton, Dorothy Mavis, Beverly Dove, Maxine Wasson, Dorothy Laub, Velma Mae Dielman, Irene Baron (Dielman), Jeanette Rohrer and Mary Louise Oberlin.

The sorority has three active members from Edgerton, Ohio, and also does community service in Edgerton. Members raise money for Christmas food baskets, camp fees for the Sunnyside Handicap School, and for bone marrow transplants in Butler and Edgerton.

Members meet once a month, with Lois Hoch as president. Other officers are Norma Johnston, vice president; Beverly McClish, secretary; Irene Dielman, treasurer; and Mildred Shoudel, parliamentarian. Other members are Judy Ludwig, Pat Collingsworth, Jeanette Salinas, and Emma Franks.

Lambda Sigma Chapter Sigma Phi Gamma

Edith Bocock, Phyllis Langstaff Royce, Ferne Palmer Shick, Violet Pettit Tindall, and Irene Waters Worley founded the Lambda Sigma Chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma International Society on Aug. 29, 1920.

The Butler chapter was founded Jan. 28, 1973 by the Pi Alumna Chapter of Garrett. Evelyn Esselburn was the Province organizer and Tonya Reinoehl was the Girl Responsible.

Charter members were Diane Archer, Sally Bercaw, Cathy Cornelius, Renee Harpster, Sheila Holman, Janet Phillips, Linda Kandel, Kay Lane, Debbie Miller, Meredith Storer and Lyndia Suntken. Holman served as its first president.

The sorority sponsors the Butler Days Children's Parade, and donates to the Preschool for the Handicapped, the youth leagues of Butler and Riverdale, the Butler gazebo project, and needy families in the community.

Members have adopted Sunny Meadows (formerly the DeKalb County Farm) as a special service project. They visit residents, deliver gifts, built a gazebo, and planted flowers and shrubs on the grounds.

The sorority meets the second Thursday of each month. Officers are Sally Bercaw, president; Barb Green, vice president; Lyndia Suntken, treasurer; Carolyn Yeaser, secretary; Debbie Watts, organizer; Denise Baird, service secretary; Meredith Storer, editor and counselor; Debbie Geeting, historian; and Sue Rohr, social secretary.

A Community of Faith

By Sheryl Prentice

Jerusalem Community Church

The Jerusalem Community Church is located at County Road 12 and State Road 1. It was founded in 1883 with Jacob Rowe, Andrew Haynes, and James Myers as the first trustees. The Rev. Charles Krebel and C. M. Eberly served as the first pastors.

The church met in a school for three years until land was purchased in 1885, and the deed recorded Oct. 10, 1885. The structure was built in 1886. The church was organized as a United Brethren Sabbath School in 1887.

In 1914 the church was rebuilt and the basement dug, and the Ladies Aid organized in 1929. The United Brethren and Evangelical churches merged on Nov. 16, 1946. Until 1961, Jerusalem was a three-point charge with Big Run and Zion churches.

The EUB and Methodist churches merged April 23, 1968, and the congregation became Jerusalem United Methodist Church. A new steeple was added to the building in 1985. A centennial celebration was held Sept. 18, 1983.

In June 1988, the congregation withdrew from the United Methodist denomination and became non-denominational. It is now called the Jerusalem Community Church.

Community Bible Church

The Community Bible church at 132 W. Oak St., was founded in June 1945 by Dave Moudy, Glen Houser, Walter Hose, and George H. Houser. They purchased the old Church of God building and were known as the Community Gospel Center.

The Rev. Claude Bonzel served as



The Jerusalem Community Church, County Road 12 and State Road 1.



The Community Bible Church, 132 West Oak Street.

pastor from July 1945 to October 1946. Gordon Petty is the church's pastor.

The church was incorporated as a non-profit group in Indiana in December 1948, and the name changed to Community Bible Church in 1967. A 36-by-40-foot addition was built on the back of the building in 1980.

Butler Baptist Chapel

The Butler Baptist Chapel was founded Oct. 5, 1987 by the Southern Baptist Association. Mike Crowell served as the first pastor, and Brother Ray Carter is the minister at present.

The church is a mission church, with 15-20 in attendance for worship and 6-9 for Sunday School. The congregation meets at the UAW Hall on Federal Street, with the Auburn Baptist Church as its sponsoring congregation.

Butler Zion United Methodist

The Butler Zion United Methodist Church at County Roads 4-A and 79 was founded in 1847. Charter members were Daniel McClelland and his wife, and Marriah and Martha Thompson.

A log church was built in 1850, with Zion United Brethren Church as its

first name. A frame church was built in 1874, and the present church building was remodeled in 1912. The congregation participated in the merger of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Church in 1946, forming the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The EUB Church and the Methodist merged in 1968, forming the Butler Zion United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Nelson Cairl serves as the current pastor.

Butler Church of Christ

John Aylsworth founded the Butler Church of Christ on March 1, 1870, and the church is presently located at 173 W. Oak St. Dale Rabineau serves as pastor now.

Eighteen charter members began meeting in the Butler Lutheran Church in 1870. The current site was purchased 1873-1874 during the ministry of Thomas P. Sutton, and the building was dedicated Feb. 7, 1875. The Sunday School installed electric lights and water in 1895, and later added a basement, baptistry, new windows, and an east wing.

Charles Reign Scoville gave his parents' former home on East Main Street to the church for use as a par-



The Butler Zion United Methodist Church, County Roads 4-A and 79.



The Butler Church of Christ, 173 West Oak Street.

sonage about Dec. 1, 1919. The congregation reroofed and redecorated the building in 1932, including the basement. They bought the adjoining property for a parsonage in March 1938, and sold the East Main parsonage in June 1944.

The basement was enlarged in 1954, and a new kitchen and classrooms

were added. A new educational unit on the north side of the building was completed in March 1960.

The church purchased the property at 205 W. Oak St. for a new parsonage Aug. 8, 1969. In 1971, a minister's office and a foyer were added to the south side of the building.



The Free Bible Tabernacle, 206 West Washington Street.

Free Bible Tabernacle

The Free Bible Tabernacle at 206 Washington St. is pastored by the Rev. Charles Witt.

The Rev. V. J. Cross founded the Pentecostal Mission Independent at 205 Broadway from 1943-1945, with rent at \$30 per month, near the site of the present Eagles Lodge. Cross

moved the congregation to Willow and Broadway, then to the corner of Washington and James streets in 1946 on land donated by Charles and Edith Anderson.

A big barn was moved in from the country and foundation laid, with the Rev. James Shelton as pastor. The church became the Bethsada Taber-

nacle, affiliated with the Pentecostal Church of God of America. The name changed to Free Bible Tabernacle in October 1956 as an independent con-

gregation. At present the congregation is aligned with International Pentecostal Church of Christ in London, Ohio.



The St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 217 West Main Street.

St. Mark's Lutheran

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 217 W. Main St., was founded in 1864 by J. W. Henderson. Henderson served as the first pastor until 1868.

The cornerstone of the first building was laid in 1864. In 1901, this building was razed to construct the present building. Partitions were

added in 1935 to the interior to create extra Sunday School space. Classrooms were added to the basement in 1957. In 1964, the sanctuary was turned around to face north instead of south.

The synod realigned in 1988, and became known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.



The Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, County Roads 40 and 59.

Mount Pleasant United Methodist
The Mount Pleasant United Meth-

odist Church at County Roads 40 and 59 was founded in 1854. The Rev.

Benton and his wife were both ministers, and services were held at Abraham Eakright's property until 1861, when the congregation moved into a log schoolhouse. The Rev. James Martin served as the first pastor.

Jacob Ginder donated the property for the present site, and a frame structure was built in 1870. A new church building was constructed in Butler in 1883, but the rural building was remodeled in 1889 and reopened. In 1917, the church was veneered in brick, classrooms added, and the structure raised to put in a basement. A new furnace and new seats were

installed, and the church was dedicated for the third time on Dec. 23, 1917.

A new roof, a new furnace, and a new furnace room was added in 1936 and the building redecorated.

The congregation has operated a fair booth at the DeKalb County Fair each year since 1955, when an educational wing was begun. An annual ice cream social is another ongoing project. A groundbreaking service for the basement of the new wing was held Sept. 15, 1957 and Al Lange of Auburn was given the contract for the upper structure in 1958.



The Butler Church of the Nazarene, 550 North Beech Street.

Butler Nazarene

The Butler Church of the Nazarene at 550 N. Beech St., was founded July 28, 1940 with 17 charter members. James Payton served as pastor until the Rev. Ray Shadowens was assigned as full-time pastor. The current pastor is the Rev. Paul A. Patton.

The congregation purchased the Wittenberg Lutheran Church building at Artic in January 1942 and

moved it to 208 E. Main St. in Butler. The congregation had been meeting in a store building at 324 S. Broadway, across from the Butler Company in the fall.

A new building was erected at the present site in 1960, when the Rev. James Tucker was pastor.

The congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary July 22, 1990.

Faith Fellowship

Faith Fellowship of Butler at 127 West Main Street was founded in August 1974 by Harold and Helen Seltenright, Sonny and Sharon Spake,

Clair and Ellen Immel, Jim and Alice Seltenright, Lyston and Leeta Searfoss, Kenny and Ruby Baughman, David Blaker, and Keith Keltner Jr.

The Rev. Howard Estes came to get



The Faith Fellowship of Butler, 127 West Main Street.

the church started, and in October, the Rev. John Robles became the full-time pastor. The first board of directors was Sonny Spake, president; Keith Keltner Jr., vice president; David Blaker, secretary-treasurer.

The parsonage at 206 N. Elm St. was purchased from W. Keep in 1975. The congregation bought 20 acres in 1978 north of Butler on State Road 1.

The Pastor is Nelson Weiker.



The Butler United Methodist Church, 501 West Green Street.

Butler United Methodist

The Butler United Methodist Church was preceded by a congregation known as the Methodist Episcopal organized by Edward Praul in 1839, and the Evangelical United Brethren supported by A. J. Mason in 1882.

Edward Praul first led a Methodist class in his home in 1839. The Methodist Episcopal Church at Pearl and Washington streets was built in 1860. In 1881, the United Brethren built a church at 127 W. Main St. with the

financial support of A. J. Mason.

The congregations merged in 1968 to become Butler United Methodist Church, and the cornerstone for the present building at 501 W. Green St. was laid Aug. 12, 1973. The congregation literally carried hymnals, candlesticks, cross and altar to the new worship center on moving day Oct. 7, 1973.

The present congregation continues to share in the community with the Rev. Neil Butcher as pastor since 1989.

The Story of Butler's Susie the Deer

By Carolyn Ladd

Once upon a time there was a very special deer that became the pet of everyone who lived in a small town in northeast Indiana. The story began in the spring of 1971, when a mother deer and her two fawns began to visit a crew of construction workers who fed them from their lunch pails. Sadly, the mother deer was killed, but the two fawns continued to visit the workers to be fed. One of the fawns was Susie and the other was called Becky, as named by some of the school children.

When the crew eventually finished its work and left the area, Susie and Becky began to venture out to visit the school where children would feed them from their lunchboxes. The two fawns also made visits to certain yards and gardens in the area near Maxton Park.

In time, Becky disappeared, but Susie seemed to like Butler and decided to stay. In the years to follow, Susie became known as Butler's pet deer. She could be seen roaming the city; she would especially like to visit the children at Butler Elementary School. One day Susie was spotted parading down Broadway in the middle of town making a tour of Maxton Motor's car lot.

The word about Susie was getting around not only locally, but she earned national notoriety as well. Stories about Susie and her antics could be heard on WIFF radio as reported by Pat Oberlin who broadcast the Butler news. Susie's stories and pictures appeared regularly in local papers and special features were printed in articles all over the country.

Susie became tame enough that she



Susie the Deer brought national attention to Butler in the 1970s with her antics. Susie became the city's official "pet" with her own signs at each end of Butler. Often, Susie could be seen roaming the streets and neighborhoods of the city.

would eat right out of a person's hand. Some of her favorite treats were malted milk balls, animal crackers, crusts of bread, apples, and oddly enough, she loved tobacco.

When spring arrived, Susie would disappear into the woods at the west end of the city and then would reappear with a new set of fawns. It is estimated that Susie gave birth to four or five sets of fawns in the area that became known as the maternity woods. The fawns would accompany their mother on her visits around Butler, but they would eventually go off on their own. Susie always stayed behind.

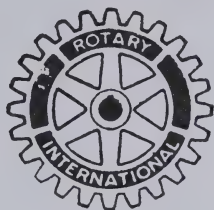
As citizens became concerned about Susie's safety, a collection was taken to raise money to buy new signs to be

placed at Butler's city limits. The signs read, "Butler, Home of Susie, Our Pet Deer."

In spite of efforts to keep Susie safe, she was injured in 1976 when she was seen with an arrow protruding from her jaw. Wild dogs had also been seen chasing her in Maxton Park. Out of fear, it is assumed, Susie left Butler and was soon seen in Ohio. Several people from Butler traveled to Ohio

and found Susie, but they could do nothing to bring her back home. Fortunately, Susie found her way back to Butler a short time later and was again seen visiting her favorite spots.

It is not known what became of Susie, but everyone in the city of Butler has lived a little "happier thereafter" for having been a friend to "Susie, Our Pet Deer."



Butler Rotary Club
serving the community

Gifts & Jewelry

Nana's Stitchin' Station

Counted Cross Stitching &
Creative Framing

223 So. Broadway,
Butler, IN

Phone 868-5634

Every Week— A Brief History of Butler Newspapers

By John Martin Smith

The establishment and continued existence of a newspaper is often a good measurement of the economic health and progress of a town. Butler has had a newspaper from 1866 until the present. Numerous other publications originated at Butler from the Higley Press.

Several newspapers were published under the name *Herald*. The first began publication on June 16, 1866. After about a year of publication, the paper was moved to Ligonier.

In 1868 Emory Higley established the *Banner of Liberty*. It was soon moved to Auburn and changed to the *Auburn Times*.

In 1870, A. B. Knight established another paper under the *Herald* masthead but it was also short-lived.

Harry Weamer established the *News* in 1874 as a Republican newspaper. It was also moved to Auburn after a short time.

The *Record* was founded by W. M. Kist in March 1877. After a series of owners and editors the name was changed to *Weekly Record*. It remained under the publication of Luther H. Higley until it was merged with the *Herald* on January 1, 1929.

A paper called the *Review*, first issued in 1876, survived less than a year, but the name *Review* was revived by Harry Weamer in 1881. In 1891 the name was changed to *DeKalb County Herald*.

The *Times*, also called the *Lively Times*, was probably published in Butler in 1875.

Zion's Watchman (later the *Herald of Light and Zion's Watchmen*) was published by Luther H. Higley beginning in 1878. It was terminated in the 1930s. Numerous religious publications were published by the Higley Press, including the widely used Higley Sunday School Class Book Series.

A third newspaper under the *Herald* name was established in 1894. In 1901 the name was changed to *DeKalb County Herald*.

The *Record* and *Herald* were acquired by Arthur S. Powers and the two papers merged on January 1, 1929, under the name *Record-Herald*. They were published by Mr. Powers, his son Burdette, his son-in-law Forest Oiler, and his grandson John Powers, until 1972, when the newspaper was purchased by Dr. Lee Ellen Ford. In 1976 the name was changed to *DeKalb Record Herald*.

In 1974 the paper absorbed the *Waterloo Press*. Publication was suspended in December 1976 but was printed for the next several months by the *Bulletin* and was later merged with the *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* began publication in 1976 under the direction of Max Gray and Joe Shelton. In March 1977, *Bulletin* absorbed the *Record-Herald* and assumed its volume dating. In 1988 the *Bulletin* changed from a Democratic to a Republican newspaper. Through mergers and a succession of names, the *Butler Bulletin* can track publication for 125 years back to June 16, 1866.

Butler's Top News Stories Since 1966

By Sheryl Prentice

It is said nothing ever happens in small towns, but a glance at the local newspapers for the last 25 years shows that life in Butler was and is anything but dull.

Just as in other places, accidents and crimes dominated the pages of Butler's papers, the *Record-Herald* and later the *Butler Bulletin*. The city was witness to numerous car-train accidents before crossarms were installed, and several murders made the front page.

The heart of any community is its school system, and Butler residents saw many changes in theirs. The Butler and Riverdale High Schools were consolidated in March 1963 and plans were made to build a new high school, but the path to its eventual opening in the fall of 1971 was anything but smooth.

Superintendent Ernest Zeller retired in February 1966, and Kenneth Cole was later hired as his replacement. Charles Hampel was hired as principal at Riverdale Elementary School, and became superintendent in 1978. He continues to serve in that position.

A growing controversy over the site of the proposed new high school dominated the front pages of the *Record-Herald* all through the spring and summer of 1966. Editor R. Powers began publishing the minutes of each school board meeting verbatim in the paper, sometimes on the front page, and many of the meetings proved very lengthy. Minutes from the April 18, 1966 meeting show adjournment was at 12:40 a.m. the next day, with the board going into an executive session after that.

Patrons from the southern portion

of the new district opposed construction of the school in Butler, preferring a site four miles south of Butler on the Lyons farm. An article in the August 18, 1966 edition of the *Record-Herald* said the group opposed the "limited growth potential" and the "extreme northerly location in the district in view of future population growth from Allen County . . ."

The previous school board had chosen the rural site, but the new board rescinded the decision in July when they took office. The "Southern Group" as they were called, hired an attorney, but were ultimately unsuccessful.

State officials made several inspections of the two sites, but had not officially approved either one. Eventually the Butler site won approval, with a waiver to the portion of the law requiring a setback from the Norfolk & Western Railroad tracks.

Three years later the controversy still raged, with the southern groups proposing to join DeKalb Central United School District. Petitions were circulated, both for and against, but DeKalb Central rejected the plan.

The Eastside High School campus-style building ultimately proved impractical for harsh Indiana winters, and the buildings were joined by hallways and additional classrooms in 1981. Another addition in 1989-90 added more classrooms, two shop rooms, and a second, smaller gymnasium.

Even as the community fought over building sites, they rejoiced as the Eastside Blazers won the sectional basketball championship in March 1966. The Blazers defeated Hamilton

and Fremont before beating the Waterloo Wildcats in the final game, 35-31.

Butler also had some notorious fires in the last quarter century. The Butler grain elevator burned in September 1966, following the fate of several other grain elevators in Spencer-ville, Helmer, and Fort Wayne. A month later, the Garrett grain elevator burned and several others went up in smoke the next year.

However, the biggest fire was probably the one at Kaiser Chemical Company in September 1982. Six fire departments fought the blaze for 6 ½ hours, but the structure was completely destroyed. South side residents were evacuated at 4:05 a.m. because of toxic smoke. The plant was never rebuilt.

Butler was evacuated once before, in September 1969, when a railroad car sitting on a Penn Central siding near the ill-fated fertilizer plant began leaking ammonia fumes. An automatic pressure valve had failed to close. Residents were allowed to return in about two hours.

The 1970s brought Susie the Deer to town, where she charmed everyone with her strolls through the streets and her willingness to take treats from people's hands. Construction workers in the spring of 1971 fed Susie and her sister Becky from their lunch pails. After the crew left, Susie ventured into the school grounds for treats from the children's lunch pails. She loved malted milk balls, animal crackers, bread crusts, apples, and tobacco.

Eventually Becky left, but Susie remained and brought a new set of

fawns to town for four or five years. As her fawns grew, even the national media did stories about her. The town put signs up at the city limits to warn motorists to watch for her.

She was injured by an arrow in 1976 and went to Ohio for a while, but eventually returned. No one knows what became of her after she was last seen in about 1978.

Back-to-back blizzards, which struck a year to the day of each other, made headlines in January 1977 and 1978. High winds, blizzard conditions, and sub-zero temperatures brought daily life to a standstill. In 1977, the wind chill reached a -89 degrees.

The 1978 blizzard was even worse, dumping a record 17 inches of snow and piling drifts 12 feet high. Snowmobilers and county highway crews worked with emergency personnel to deliver food, baby formula, and medicine to people caught short by the storm. School remained closed for 10 days.

The 1980s saw changes to Butler's downtown area, as landscaping and a gazebo gave the town a fresh, new look. *Butler Bulletin* publisher Joe Shelton, who had bought the *Record-Herald* in 1977, spearheaded the landscaping project. Islands of trees, flowers, and shrubs decorated two corners at U.S. 6 and State Road 1, and a third one beautified an area next to Mom's Eaten' Haus.

Shelton worked with master carpenter Argus Fisher and a group of volunteers to build the 10-sided gazebo downtown. The structure was completed in June 1986.

Red Letter Dates

By Carolyn Ladd

- 1966: Eastside High School basketball team wins sectional crown.
- 1967: Downtown parking meters are torn down; they were installed in 1956.
- 1967: The New York Central train depot on Eastern Avenue is torn down. It was built in 1854 when LakeShore and Michigan Southern Railroad built tracks from Butler to Toledo.
- 1969: The Underhill Market closes after fifty years of business. The building becomes the Gamble's Store.
- 1969: Butler City Dump is closed by DeKalb County Health Department.
- 1969: Portions of Butler are evacuated due to ammonia fumes railroad car.
- 1969: Dr. Charles I. Weirich retires after 36 years as Butler doctor.
- 1970: Mutzfeld Hardware is sold to Mr. and Mrs. John Chorpennig. Mutzfeld's began as a harness shop in 1882.
- 1970: Leland J. Diehl retires after 31 years as rural mail carrier.
- 1971: Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Powers, publishers of the Butler *Record-Herald*, retire, turning the business over to Mr. and Mrs. John Powers; third generation of Powers to operate the business.



Butler city officials and lawmakers. Seated in front, left to right, Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Minehart, Councilwoman Mary Louise Ginder, Mayor Jerry Markle, and Councilwoman Sally Moughler. Standing, left to right, are Councilman Dick Miller, Councilman Bob Kneip, Councilman Frank Brock, and City Attorney Jerry McNeerney.

- 1971: Last day of school in old Butler High School building. Students can no longer go to town during lunchtime as once did to visit Dal's and Pug's.
- 1971: The old water tower is torn down. It had been built in 1914 by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works.
- 1971: The Butler Theatre, first built by James Decker as a livery stable in the mid 1800s, is torn down to become a parking lot for Knisely National Bank.
- 1971: Susie the Deer first seen in Butler with her mother and sister Becky.
- 1972: The old gym reopens for basketball practice and continues in use today.
- 1972: Diehl's Jewelry Store closes after over 100 years of service. It was started by Leander J. Diehl in 1867.
- 1972: Groundbreaking is celebrated for Meadowhaven Nursing Home.
- 1973: American Legion Post 202 holds Appreciation Day for Vietnam Veterans.
- 1974: Dr. E. V. Blume retires after 28 years of veterinary service.
- 1975: The Gladys Haddix Shop closes after many years of business.
- 1975: Hook's Drug Store comes to Butler with manager Gary Flood who continues to manage the operation.
- 1977: James Angelone retires as city attorney after serving the community since 1953.
- 1977: Butler EMS moves into new quarters in the city hall building made possible by public donations.
- 1978: City street lights are turned off in downtown Butler to conserve power during a national energy crisis.
- 1981: Butler residents receive cable television with the opening of the Butler Cable TV Service.



The City Utilities Office, 201 South Broadway, is the present location for the mayor, city superintendent, clerk-treasurer, and water office.

Patron Advertisements

Without the assistance of these individuals and families, the goal of publishing this historical volume may not have been realized.

Adams, Arminta and Emmett
Amstutz, Erma Jennings
Anderson, Marjorie
Anthony, Gertrude N. (Newcomer)
Armstrong, Kaye and Tom
Baldwin, Alice and Joe
Bercaw, Dick and Lois
Bercaw, Randy and Sally, Greg and Laura
Betz, Kathryn
Blair, Bruce and Pauline
Bonecutter, Clare and Joan
Bonecutter, Donald E.
Bowers, Luella and Robert
Bowman, Joseph E. and Ruth
Brown, Martin W. and Ruth E., Luke and Rachel
Bryant, Carl
Bowen, Jean
Bumgerdner, Christina
Bungard, Randy and Susan, Angela and Benjamin
Burdick, Albert and Helen
Burns, Charlotte and John, Andrew
Burns, James and Kim, Adam and Tiffany
Buss, Dave and Elma
Cairl, Cindy and Daniel, Brandon, Janell, and Stephan
Capp, Charles and Wilma
Cather, Betty and William
Cather, Charles Kester and Kathleen Lucille
Cather, Lucille and Robert
Christlieb, Dale and Mary
Clark, Glenn and Luella
Cline, Pat and Roger, Mark and Scott
Crager, Mitchell and Rosanna, Alicia, Brian, and Timothy
Crowl, Bennie and Ilene
Czaja, Agnes and Thaddeus
Czaja, Joe and Karen, Melissa and Mike
Davis, Fred and Tammy, Craig and Tara
Davis, Kenneth and Marceline
Dickerhoof, Damian A. and Darrin A.
Dickerhoof, Dan A. and Rose M.
Diehl, Darlene and Tom
Diehl, Joyce and Wilbur
Dielman, Irene

Dove, Esther and Gary L.
 Dove, Kathryn L. and Larry L.
 Eakright, Diane and Sam, Justin, Matthew, and Stephanie
 Eck, Pauline and Roy
 Everhart, Janet and Richard, Adam and Ashley
 Ferguson, Janet and John
 Fisher, Allen B. and Dorothy P.
 Fisher, Argus and Helen
 Ford, Geneva and Lee Ellen
 Frakes, Janet and Richard
 Frakes, Mae
 Freidenberger, Beatrice (Armstrong) and Herbert, Jr.
 Freidenberger, Richard and Suzanne
 Fry, Lonnie and Tamara, Ian and Tiffany
 Fry, Mike and Patty, Jason and Kristina
 Fry, Ralph and Wendy, Colt and Zachery
 Fuller, Marcella
 Gaff, Donnabelle and Max
 Garman, Donna and Ronald, Allyson, Douglas, and Lance
 Gearhart, Bert and Ruth
 Gerardot, Lisa and Myles, Justin
 Ginder, Earl and Glendolene
 Ginder, Mary L. and Robert D.
 Gollmer, Sharon and Tom
 Gregory, Margaret L. and Stanley E.
 Grobis, Charles L. and M. Rebecca
 Hampel, Carole and Charles
 Hartman, Michael D.
 Harvey, Dorothy (Dohner)
 Haynes, Rudolph and Vera (Slentz)
 Haynes, Marilyn (Houck) and Thomas I.
 Haynes, Tom, Jr.
 Helbert, Danny and Robin, Bridget, Danielle, and Nicholas
 Henrichs, Judy and Rick, Stephanie
 Hersh, Elizabeth (Mondhank)
 Hildebrandt, Carl and Janet
 Hills, Mary
 Hollinger, Allen and Joann
 Holman, Lyle and Sherry, Ginger and Lisa
 Hook, Gregory and Karin
 Hose, Alice and Ralph
 Hose, Nora and Robert
 Houser, Ricky L. and Ronald D., Brent and Janel
 Hughes, Joan and Dr. Wendell
 Husted, Irene and Roscoe
 Janke, Florence (Dohner)
 Janke, Hazel (Dohner)
 Johnson, Deb and Eric, Jared

Johnson, Mercy L.
Johnson, Sally J.
Jones, Carol and Jeri, Jeff
Kaiser, Helen M.
Kaiser, Joleene and Timothy
Kandel, George and Gwyn
Kern, Nancy and Ralph, Cindy
Kirk, Larry and Trudy
Kitchen, Judy and Roger, Brennen and Cortney
Kneip, Bob and Pat
Knox, Barbara and Glen
Knox, Barb and Rod, Annette and Matthew
Krontz, Betty and Floyd
Krontz, Laura and Vic, Danielle, and Brandie and Ryan Reed
Kunkel, Charles and Lois
Ladd, Annabelle
Ladd, Carolyn and Jerry, Amy and Jessica
Ladd, Debi and Don
Lake, Gaynell (Janke)
Laub, Bea and J. Fred
Luke, Irene H.
Lyons, David and Karen, Kristin and Meghan
Markle, Jerry L.
Mausteller, Glenda and Guy
Mayer, Phillip and Robin, Jacob
McClish, Beverly and Glenn
McDonald, Harold and Lucy
McEntarfer, Cynthia and Wayne, Eric, Justin, Lindsae, and Nathan
McNerney, Gerald and Kathryn, Erin and Jerry
Miller, Dick and Leona
Miller, Douglas J. and Jeanne M.
Miller, Kathryn L. (Smith) and William E.
Minehart, Cathie and Rick, George, Luke, and Sam
Moore, Brian and Charlene
Moore, Ercel Tyson
Moore, James and Sharon, Becky and Robin
Morris, Everett and Mary, Toni
Morrow, Alice and David, Angela, David, and Tammy
Moughler, David and Sally
Moughler, Doris and Roy
Moughler, Judy and Roger, Cassie and Gary
Mutzfeld, Mareta and Paul
Myers, Dwight and Lois, Janet
Myers, Ginny and Ralph
Nelson, Francis and Irene
Nelson, Marilyn L., Denny
Nichols, Lucille
Obendorf, Marilee and Robert E.

Obendorf, Russell E.
 O'Forrest, Jack and Mae
 Pedersen, Eric and Jody, Matt and Tyler
 Phillips, Sondra and Wendell
 Platt, Anna Mae
 Poe, Debbie and Donald, David and Donna
 Poinsett, Anita and Thomas, Michelle
 Prentice, Jennifer and Roger
 Prentice, Lowell and Sheryl, Dawn and Jeremy
 Prosser, Anna and Dave, Lori and Mike
 Provines, Letha and Verl
 Raney, Helen I.
 Rediger, James and Julie, Janis and Jennifer
 Reinhart, Dortha and John
 Reinoehl, Hubert and Virginia
 Rex, Blaine and Rita
 Ridge, Charles Robert and Evelyn
 Ridge, Jeffrey, Charles Ryan and Karla
 Robbins, Irene
 Rohm, Betty and Carl, Larry
 Rosenberry, Bill and Donna
 Rubalcaba, Flena and Peter
 Salyers, C. Jeanne and Gary L., Jeannie and Kelly
 Sattison, Don and Sue
 Scoville, John and Nancy, Darryl, Judith, Mark, Rodney and Samuel
 Sebert, Brenda and Mike, Amy, Randy, and Rory
 Sebert, Dwight and Iris
 Seltenright, Alice and James, Mark and Nadine
 Shafer, Clyde F. and Dora R.
 Shannon, James and Marie
 Shannon, Vivian
 Shepherd, Denise and W. Mitch, Ashley and Lance
 Sherer, Alfred, Sr., and Helen
 Shoudel, Mildred
 Shull, Bob and Flo
 Shull, Deanna and Edwin
 Shull, Lois and William
 Shultz, Anita and Ronald
 Shultz, Earl and Nancy
 Shultz, Jeffery Lynn
 Shultz, Thelma M.
 Sicard, Helen B.
 Sites, Isabel Cather
 Slesman, Douglas and Katherine, Daisy and Scott
 Slentz, Ann and Robert
 Smith, Barbara Clark and John Martin
 Smith, Ginger and Jake, Luke, Marc, and Matt
 Smith, Walter M.

Snyder, Alice and Verle
 Staley, Adam and Karen
 Stemen, John and Susie
 Strawn, Carolyn and Doyle
 Strock, Ken and Jean
 Strock, Kenny
 Strock, Marie B.
 Strock, Terry and Tricia (Erwin)
 Strohm, Brenda and George, Chris and Jeremy
 Suntken, Agnes and Alfred
 Suntken, Gerald "Buck" and Laura, Andrea and Rebecca
 Suntken, Lyndia
 Suntken, Michael, Alisa and Jennifer
 Swaim, Kathie Oiler and Mark E.
 Thompson, Kathryn
 Thorp, Alan and Sherri, Jolyn and Kellie
 Tressler, Earney and Emily
 Troder, Kathie and Mark, Benjamin, Melanie, and Michelle
 Tule, Clare and Kay
 VanZile, Gary C. and Leona B.
 Waldron, Fern
 Walters, Kelly and Rick, Cara and Chris, and Brad and Kristin Brown
 Walters, Robert L.
 Ward, Liz and Steve, Katie and Lauren
 Warstler, Elaine and Larry, Jamie and Stacey
 Webster, Eula and Weldon
 Weiker, Mary G. and Rev. Nelson E.
 White, Diane and Jim, Julie and Keith
 Wilson, Darrell and Margaret
 Wilson, Helen (Olds) and Keith
 Winn, Corky and John
 Winn, Dal and Katie
 Yates, Betty and Charles
 Zimmerman, Doris and Melvin



The Butler Street and Sanitation Department sees to it that all streets are in good repair and that quality water service is provided. In front, left to right, are City Superintendent Ted Miller, Assistant Superintendent Jim Eck, Denise Kurtz, and Brian Moore. Standing in back are Mike VanZile, Joe Burnett, and Mitch Beard.



Businesses in the 100 block of South Broadway, east side, looking north.

DeKALB MOLDED PLASTICS

Div. of JSJ Corporation

U.S. 6 West • Butler, Indiana 46721

(219) 868-2105

DeKALB
MOLDED PLASTICS
COMPANY

UNIVERSAL

TOOL & STAMPING CO., INC.

P.O. BOX 100
BUTLER, INDIANA 46721-0100
(219) 868-2147



Businesses in the 200 block of South Broadway, west side, looking north.



In the days before Prohibition, T.H. DeWitt's Saloon was in operation in downtown Butler. Today, the location is known as Nana's Stitchin' Station. (Photo contributed by Dan and Rose Dickerhoof)

Congratulation for 150 years

THE BUTLER COMPANY, INC.
325 South Broadway
Butler, Indiana 46721

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS OF:
WATER SYSTEMS • PLUMBING SUPPLIES
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
HVAC SYSTEMS

Butler (219) 868-2144
Fax (219) 868-5181

Kendallville Branch (219) 347-1605

Serving the Butler area for 97 years.



Butler City Aerie No. 2733

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

**AERIE HOME:
340 SOUTH BROADWAY
BUTLER, INDIANA 46721**



The Knisely Bank, as it appeared in the early 1900s at the intersection of South Broadway and West Oak streets. The bank is at the same location today. In this picture, the bank occupies just a portion of the building, but today, the Knisely National Bank is the building's sole occupant. (Photo contributed by Bob and Evelyn Ridge)



Butler firefighters wash down the street in the 200 block of South Broadway in the mid-1950's. The old IGA store, Rex's Tavern, the Butler Theater, and the Knisely Bank can be seen along the west side of the street. (Photo contributed by the Butler Fire Department)

Broadway Laundry & Car Wash

243 S. Broadway
Owner — LaVon Collins
since 1963

TRI-WALL



BUTLER PLANT

2626 County Road 71

Butler, Indiana

PHONE 219-868-2151

**CHARLES NORRIS FOUNDED
NORRISTOWN**

(BUTLER) IN THE YEAR 1841

**MEMORIAL ERECTED IN 1976 BY THE
DESCENDANTS OF CHARLES NORRIS**

The plaque for Charles Norris, located at the Norris Cemetery on County Road 24, east of State Road 1, north of Butler. (Photo contributed by John Martin Smith)



The Butler Basket Factory was located on the west edge of Butler at the northeast corner of West Main Street and the Basket Factory Road (County Road 61-A). (Photo contributed by John Martin Smith)



Yancy Stonestreet
Owner

Yancy's Mini Mart

144 W. Main St.

Butler, IN

868-5694

*"An American Company
Serving America"*

Joe & Karen Czaja

Managers

SERVICE STEEL PRODUCTS

206 W. Depot Street
Butler, Ind.

PHONE 868-5909

SCHAAAB'S BARBER SHOP

108 South Broadway
Butler, Indiana 46721

HOURS: Tues. & Thurs., 8:30 to 5:00
Sat., 8:00 to 1:00

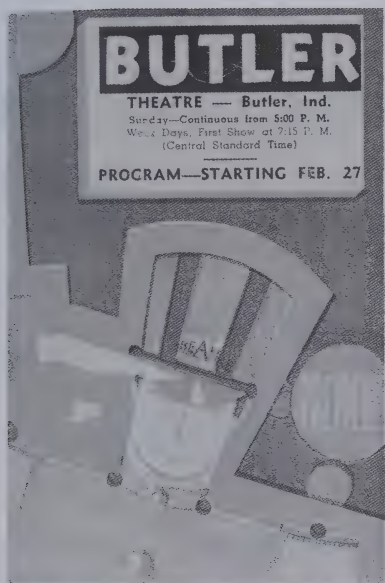
Appointments Available

Phone 868-2400

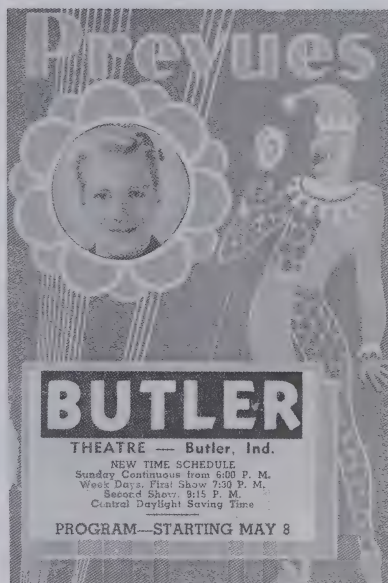
The Butler Bulletin
108 E. Main Street
Butler, Ind. 46721

Program Covers from the Past

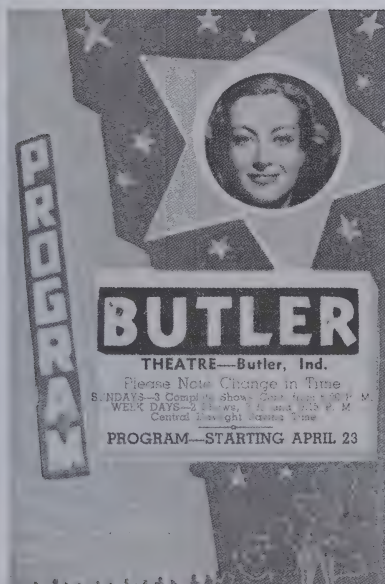
Let's Go to the Movies at the Butler Theatre



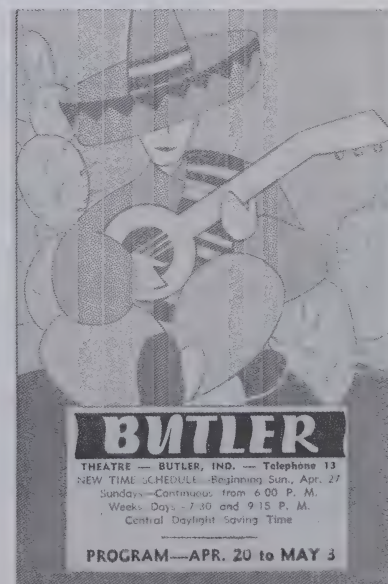
1937



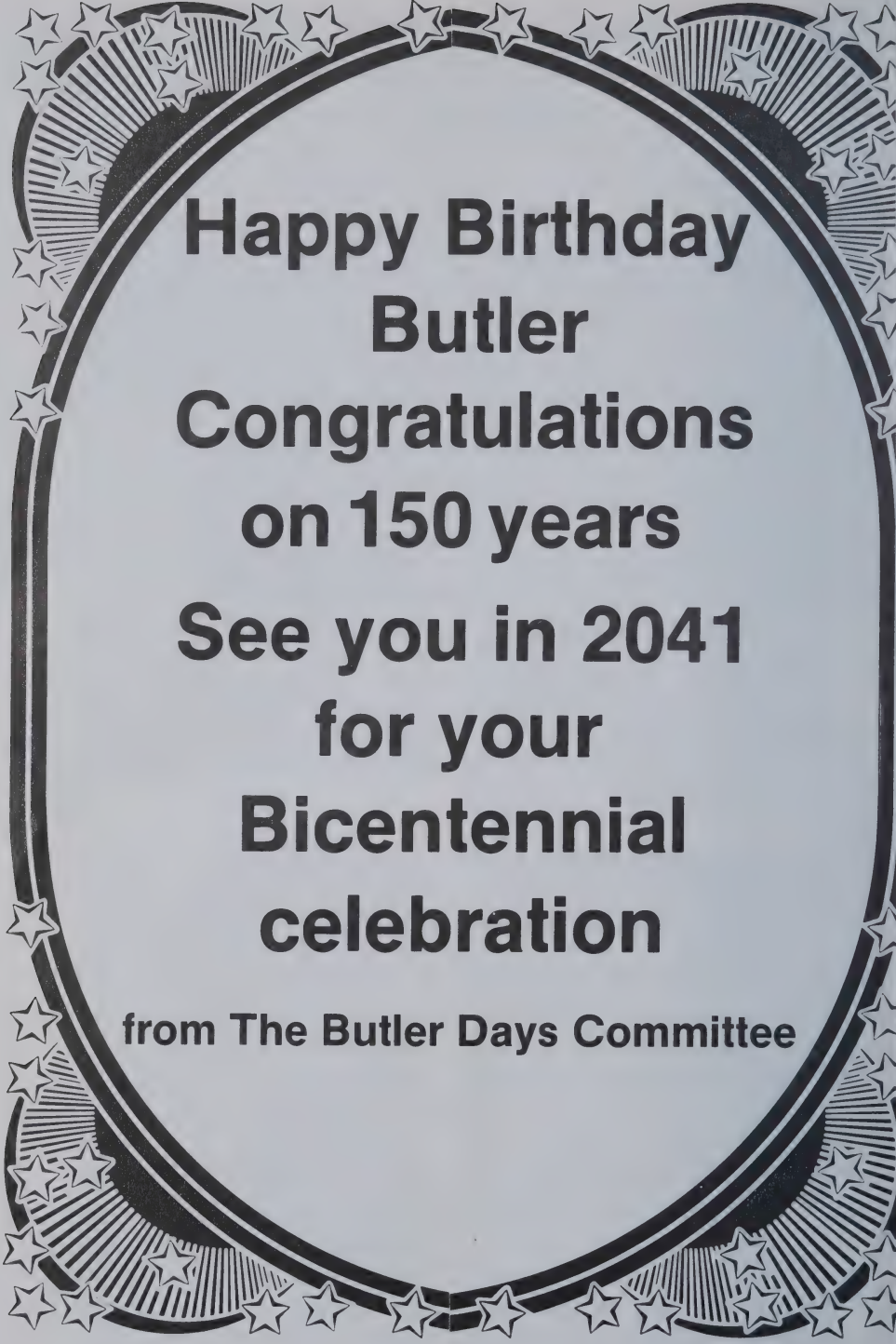
1938



1939



1940



**Happy Birthday
Butler
Congratulations
on 150 years
See you in 2041
for your
Bicentennial
celebration**

from The Butler Days Committee



Eckhart Public Library

603 S. Jackson Street Auburn, IN 46706
Phone: 219-925-2414

Patron is responsible for all
material borrowed.





Place your order Now- The Outstanding Chevrolet of Chevrolet History - a Six in the price range of the four!

Since the announcement of The Outstanding Chevrolet of Chevrolet History, tens of thousands of people have placed their orders for this sensational new car! Never before has any new Chevrolet ever won such tremendous public acceptance in so short a time! The new Chevrolet six-cylinder valve-in-head motor is an engineering masterpiece. Not only does it develop 32% more power than any previous Chevrolet motor... not only does it offer sensationally increased speed and faster acceleration—but it provides this amazing performance with such outstanding economy that it delivers an average of better than 20 miles to the gallon of gasoline!

This spectacular performance and economy have been achieved as a result of the greatest group of engine advancements that Chevrolet has ever announced—typified by a new heavier crankshaft... new carburetor, with venturichoke and automatic accelerating pump... new camshaft... automatic rocker arm lubrication... gasoline pump and filter... semi-automatic spark control... and hot spot manifold.

The marvelous new bodies by Fisher are designed for distinctive beauty and style as well as exceptional comfort and safety.

Come in and learn the full and significant story of this greatest of all Chevrolets!

Advance Showings

The Outstanding Chevrolet of Chevrolet History will be displayed in a series of advance showings in the cities listed below:

Washington, Dec. 1-4, Mayflower Hotel... Chicago, Dec. 1-6, Pure Oil Bldg., Wacker Dr. and Wabash Ave. ... Los Angeles, Dec. 1-6, Ambassador Hotel Auditorium... San Francisco, Dec. 8-13, Civic Auditorium, Larkin Hall... Cincinnati, Dec. 8-14, Hotel Sinton... St. Louis, Dec. 8-14, Arcadia Ballroom, 3515 Olive St. ... Atlanta, Dec. 18-22, Auditorium—Armory... Dallas, Dec. 18-22, Adolphus Hotel, Junior Ballrooms... Portland, Ore., Dec. 18-22, Public Auditorium.



The COACH
\$595

Inc. Flint, Mich.

The ROADSTER... \$525
The PHAETON... \$525
The COUPE... \$595
The SEDAN... \$675
The Sport CABRIOLET... \$695
The Convertible LANDAU... \$725
SEDAN DELIVERY \$595
LIGHT DELIVERY CHASSIS \$400
1½ TON CHASSIS \$545
1½ TON CHASSIS WITH CAB \$650
All prices f. o. b. Flint, Mich.

Maxton Chevrolet Sales BUTLER, INDIANA

QUALITY AT LOW COST

★★★★★ SINCE 1926 ★★★★★

Did You Check The Maxton Deal?

MAXTON MOTORS, Inc.

BUTLER, INDIANA

CHEVROLET · PONTIAC · BUICK · OLDSMOBILE · GEO · DODGE TRUCKS

PHONE 868-2195 ★ 488-2195 ★ 422-9405

HECKMAN

BINDERY, INC.

Bound-To-Pleace®

OCT 04

N. MANCHESTER, INDIANA 46962

